

100 observers for Algerian election

CAIRO (AFP) — Around 100 Arab League, U.N. and Organisation of African Unity (OAU) observers are to supervise Algeria's presidential election in November. Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salch Dembri said here Friday. "The Arab League has already agreed to send between 30 and 40 observers, a U.N. mission has already come, and another from the OAU is to travel to Algiers in the next few days," he told AFP. "We are to sign a protocol with the three organisations and there will be 100 to 120 observers in all," he said, noting that they would not be sent to help but only to observe. "There will be a free election and our basis for the vote will be the resolution of the interparliamentary union which defines certain conditions for holding free elections," Dembri said. He said 15,000 reservists would be mobilised to maintain order during the elections. "But I can assure you that there is no question of putting a soldier behind every curtain" in the polling stations, he added.

GIA suspect sent to France

PARIS (AFP) — A suspected leader of Algeria's hardline militant Armed Islamic Group (GIA) was extradited from Germany in France on Friday at the request of an anti-terrorist judge, reliable sources said. Thirty-three-year-old Ali Chami, believed to be the group's leader in Germany, was arrested there on March 30 accused of supplying arms to fundamentalist militants in Algeria. His extradition was requested by French Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere, who is due to charge him in connection with a support network uncovered by French detectives in March. He arrived in Paris under armed police escort Friday morning, the sources said.

China accepts U.S. envoy nomination

WASHINGTON (R) — China has agreed to the candidate the United States wishes to nominate for ambassador to Beijing, a post vacant for some months amid Sino-U.S. tensions. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Friday. The administration has not publicly named the candidate, but U.S. officials confirmed it is former Tennessee Senator James Sasser.

Syria blames Israel for hijacking

DAMASCUS (AFP) — An official Syrian newspaper on Friday accused Israel of organising the hijacking of an Iranian plane to the Jewish state earlier this week. "All the information on the landing of the Iranian plane in Israel proves that the hijacking was prepared in Israel, which hoped to attract support for its regional policies," charged Al Thawra. It argued that the hijacker's request for political asylum in Israel, the delay in releasing the plane and questioning of passengers "all contradict Israel's claim of humanitarian concerns." "Neither Saudi Arabia nor Jordan have reported any request to land from the plane, which Israel should have allowed to take off again immediately after the arrest of the hijacker," an air steward, Al Thawra said (see page 12).

Three killed as jet hits glider

PARIS (AFP) — Three people were killed when a jet on a training flight collided with a glider in southeastern France on Friday, an air force statement said. An air force trainer and his pupil, and the civilian pilot of the glider were killed in the accident near the town of Forcalquier in the Vaucluse region, the statement added. It said the air force plane was a Fongas, a trainer on a training flight from the Salon de Provence air base in southern France. It collided with the glider shortly before 3:00 p.m. local time. "An inquiry is under way to determine the causes of the accident," the statement concluded.

3 foreigners beheaded in S. Arabia

DUBAI (R) — The number of public beheadings this year in Saudi Arabia rose to more than 170 after the kingdom on Friday executed three foreigners found guilty of smuggling heroin. The Interior Ministry said in statements carried by the official Saudi Press Agency that the three men, two Pakistanis and a Canadian, were beheaded by the sword in the Red Sea city of Jeddah. Saudi Arabia in 1987 added drug smuggling to its list of capital crimes which includes rape, murder and violent robberies. Executions have been on a steep rise in the kingdom this year due to an increase in drug-related cases involving mainly defendants from the Indian sub-continent and Africa, diplomats say. According to an unofficial count at least 176 criminals had been executed in Saudi Arabia this year compared with 53 the previous year, some 85 were executed in 1993.

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Gulf states understand Jordan's stand in all dimensions — Kabariti

'Ministers are comfortable with Jordan's positions on regional issues, including Iraq' Foreign minister returns from Cairo meetings Arab council fails to agree on code of honour

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Friday that the contacts he had with his counterparts attending an Arab League meeting in Cairo had cleared ambiguities and that all of them expressed great comfort over Jordan's positions towards various regional issues, including the situation in Iraq.

Mr. Kabariti, in a statement to the Jordan Times after his return from Cairo following the meeting which ended late Thursday, said: "The foreign ministers from the Gulf states now understand the Jordanian position in all its dimensions."

Mr. Kabariti, who held talks with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Syria, described his meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal as very warm and fruitful.

Mr. Kabariti, who returned home Friday after the Arab League meeting, said: "The meeting demonstrated that Jordanian-Saudi relations will not be affected by any passing cloud."

Mr. Kabariti added that he and Prince Saud agreed to continue contacts and that

the Saudi minister would visit Jordan on his way home after attending U.N. General Assembly meetings next month.

Mr. Kabariti said his meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, was friendly, "although it did not come up with tangible results in terms of charting a path for future Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations."

However, he said, the two sides agreed to continue dialogue and expand channels of

Kabariti denies Al Siyassah comments

FOREIGN MINISTER Abdul Karim Al Kabariti has said that the statements attributed to him by the Kuwaiti daily Al Siyassah were distorted and not precise at all, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

In a statement to Petra, Mr. Kabariti, who was in Cairo to attend meetings of the Arab League Council, dismissed the statements attributed to him, saying that he had made no statements in his interview with Al Siyassah relating to the future of Iraq, or anything related to Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel, who defected to Jordan in August.

communications. Mr. Kabariti did not rule out the resumption of full diplomatic relations between Jordan and Kuwait.

"We talked about restoring relations" as well as "reopening embassies, but the subject was still premature," Mr. Kabariti had said late Thursday, adding that Jordan was keen to restore relations with Kuwait.

Sheikh Sabah had also confirmed Kuwait would take part in the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held in Amman at the end of October, the Kuwaiti embassy in Cairo said.

Mr. Kabariti said his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa was characterised by "complete openness and frankness," with both sides presenting their view on inter-Arab relations, regional cooperation programmes, Arab solidarity and peace-building in the Middle East.

Mr. Kabariti stressed the importance of holding a meeting of Arab ministers taking part in the Barcelona European-Mediterranean summit in November to build a partnership with Europe.

He praised Syria and Lebanon for their decisions to take

(Continued on page 7)

Israel and PLO put off accord by another day

TABA (Agencies) — After promising a quick windup to their talks Friday on broadening Palestinian autonomy, Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegates argued for hours until it was too late to conclude the pact before the Jewish Sabbath began at sundown.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said they could not reach agreement and would resume negotiations after the Sabbath ends on Saturday night. "We are sure we will continue our negotiations to finish it in the next few hours tomorrow night," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Peres said he had to halt negotiating with the start of the Sabbath, when religious Jews eschew all work. He also said the negotiations would reopen after sundown Saturday.

"We have worked very hard together, solving many problems — very difficult and complicated problems," he said. "Actually I am saying we have agreed on the nature of the problems, but there are still other problems that we have to resolve."

Israeli reports said hitches arose over PLO demands to set a timetable for when Israel would release some 6,000 Palestinian prisoners and deciding the exact size of the autonomous zone around the West Bank city of Jericho.

Both issues were left over from the Cairo accord of May 1994 that granted autonomy to the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Mr. Arafat's spokesman said in the morning that the accord was wrapped up after six straight nights of negotiations and even set a time for any initialing ceremony.

But in the afternoon he said major differences remained to be settled, preventing completion of the agreement before sundown Friday.

Mr. Kanafani cited PLO demands and unfinished work on five major issues: — The 6,000 Palestinian prisoners. The PLO wants dates and numbers for releases. — The boundaries of the autonomous zone of Jericho, which the PLO wants to expand. — A detailed map showing Israel and Palestinian areas in Hebron. — The completion of an annex on legal issues. — Israeli and PLO legal experts still have to read through all 400 pages together as well as annexes and maps.

"We will wait until we have an agreement," Mr. Kanafani told reporters. It was not clear if the PLO had tried to extract further concessions after announcing they were about to initial the 400-page document or if Israel had raised objections.

Mr. Peres had added to expectations saying, "Everything is wrapped up... apart from a few minor points which are in the process of being settled."

He hoped the ceremony would take place at the hotel in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba before the Sabbath.

"It will be presented officially to the cabinet on Sunday," Mr. Peres said. "It will be signed at the end of next week (in Washington) if it is initialled today as scheduled."

The agreement is to detail Israeli military redeployment outside Palestinian population areas on the West Bank, the handing over of civilian powers and elections to an autonomy council.

"We have achieved good results," he said, as officials prepared a large room for the initialing ceremony.

Mr. Peres gave some details of the agreement, including shared control of Hebron, which had been the main stumbling-block.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had decided to build a by-pass around Hebron — where 400 settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians, to improve security for Israelis.

"There will be a special arrangement for the Jews and their houses (in Hebron). The Jews will still be protected by the army on a military level."

"On a civilian level, they will remain Israeli citizens but will be under the Hebron municipality."

"There will be joint patrols in one or two places in Hebron after the redeployment," Mr. Peres said.

The two sides had agreed on "joint management of water resources," but Israel will keep control of the electricity grid for the first three months while further negotiations take place.

No date has been fixed for autonomy elections, which Mr. Peres predicted could take six months.

A ministerial committee was set up to fix release dates for some of the Palestinian prisoners.

The committee — Palestinian Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath, Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid — met in occupied Jerusalem Friday.

Mr. Shahal said Friday that Israel would not release Palestinians convicted of killing Israelis.

Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein said he expected a public outcry if the PLO signed an autonomy agreement without a deal on the prisoners.

"We expect demonstrations tomorrow in Gaza and the West Bank and even a lot of problems in the jails themselves. This is very important," Mr. Abu Medein said.

Mr. Sarid said he was certain the Palestinians would initial the agreement even if the prisoners' issue was not resolved Friday.

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↑ I.L.K. MIRACLE' FRENZY: A Hindu worshipper offers a spoonful of milk to the elephant-headed Lord Ganesha at a Hong Kong temple. Reports that statues of Hindu gods were miraculously 'drinking' milk offered by devotees have sent Hindus around the world into a frenzy (see story on page 12)

Iran urges army to be alert as it marks war anniversary

TEHRAN (Agencies) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani ordered the army on Friday to stay alert against foreign threats, as Tehran staged a military parade on the 15th anniversary of the start of the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Rafsanjani did not attack Iraq directly but "all those supporting Baghdad" during the 1980-1988 war, notably the United States.

"It is essential for our forces to maintain vigilance because our enemies are not intelligent enough to learn from their defeat," he said. Both Iran and Iraq claim victory in the war, which ended with a ceasefire in August 1988.

Mr. Rafsanjani renewed his condemnation of a U.S. economic embargo against Iran, which Washington accuses of supporting international terrorism and seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

"The United States is childish enough to believe that it can bring us to our knees with its embargo, but no force can ever subdue Iran," the president said.

"We know how ignorant this kind of thinking is... which has brought nothing but disgrace to the Americans," he said.

Mr. Clinton imposed the sanctions, tightening economic restrictions already in place, in a bid to force Iran to abandon its alleged pursuit of nuclear weapons and support for international terrorism.

But the Iranians have boasted that Washington has failed to persuade its allies, mainly Western Europe and Japan, to take similar measures against the oil-rich republic.

Mr. Rafsanjani charged that the hijacking of an Iranian airliner to Israel on Tuesday (see page 12) was yet another attempt to "weaken the Islamic republic, just like the American embargo."

It was the first time a large military parade was staged for the war anniversary. The parade came as Iranian leaders threatened with international isolation step up calls for resistance against foreign "plots."

Apart from the U.S. embargo, Iran also faces growing Western influence in crisis and tension-ridden neighbouring regions like the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Caucasus.

"In the face of mounting perils, the military parade clearly amounts to a warning to the Islamic republic's enemies inside and outside the country," a European ambassador said.

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Multilateral panel agrees to set up regional security centre in Jordan

By Caroline Faraj Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of 20 countries — except Egypt — attending the meetings of the working group on arms control and regional security setup by the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, on Thursday approved for setting up a regional security centre to be based in Amman.

At the conclusion of the two-day meeting, participants stressed the need for such a centre and called for establishing it before the end of this year.

Egypt was the only country to object to this on the grounds that it was not the right time for establishing such a centre. Egypt's chief delegate was quoted as saying that he was acting upon instructions from his government.

The majority of participants, in addition to the U.S. and Russia, co-sponsors of

the peace process — also agreed to the establishment of two sub centres, one in Doha and the other in Tunis, pending the agreement of the Tunisian government.

Commenting on the decision, Abdullah Touqan, scientific advisor of His Majesty King Hussein, said the working groups decision would become final after it was endorsed by the special working group on arms control and regional security.

Dr. Touqan said once the final decision was passed, the centre would be established before end of 1995. Dr. Touqan said the centre's main objective was to support the Middle East peace efforts and to achieve regional security and stability.

Egypt based its reservation on grounds relating to the timing. The Head of the Egyptian delegation said: "Politically it is not the right time to set up such a centre."

"However, experts responded by saying that the meeting was mainly called to work out a draft charter for

the centre in addition to discussing the administrative and financial aspects involved.

One participant said the Egyptian position might have been based on considerations related to the centre's proposed headquarters rather than on the timing. Egypt's called for expanding the centre's objectives to include the establishment of a region free from nuclear arms and arms of massive destruction.

Responding to the Egyptian proposal, experts stressed that the Egyptian proposal falls under the procedures rather than the objectives.

Participants proposed the creation of a board of directors, grouping heads of the delegations who opt to join the centre in addition to representatives of the U.S. and Russia to supervise the centre.

The Egyptian delegation suggested that the centre be directly linked with the special working group, and that this group supervise the centre.

Bosnia front stabilises; mixed signals on peace

ZAGREB (Agencies) — The United Nations said on Friday that the front lines in north-western Bosnia had apparently stabilised though fighting was still quite brisk in one area.

"It would appear that the Ozen salient is still fairly active," said U.N. military spokesman Major Don Roy, briefing reporters on Thursday's fighting.

He said artillery and rockets had been used, with 750 detonations reported south of Doboj, which lies at the north end of the spur of previously Serb-held territory.

The Bosnian army has reported taking ground from the Bosnian Serbs in Ozen, west of Tuzla, over the past few days, though Mr. Roy stressed that these gains were unconfirmed.

Mr. Roy said U.N. observers were still being denied access to the front lines in north-western Bosnia, where Bosnian Croat, government and Croatian regular forces captured an estimated 4,000 square kilometres of territory in two weeks.

Mr. Roy acknowledged that the United Nations could not be sure what was going on front lines, but added: "It appears to us, with all the information we can gather, that the line has sort of stabilised, with no direct advances."

"The line has not moved

greatly in the last 36-48 hours."

Mr. Roy said there had been exchanges of small-arms fire between Croatian and Bosnian Serb forces across the Una River, which marks a stretch of the Bosnia-Croatia border on Thursday.

Croatian army units, which took part in the offensive against the Serbs, continued to pull back from the border area on Thursday, he said.

Bosnian government and Croat troops who grabbed vast chunks of land from rebel Serbs in recent days were so poorly coordinated that when they met on the battlefield they shot at each other for more than an hour, sources said.

The poor military cooperation during last week's offensive was just one aspect of a troubled alliance between Muslims and Croats that President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia discussed again Friday.

Neither men spoke to reporters after the talks, and media were kept away. But a source close to the Bosnian delegation said the two hoped to smooth the often rocky partnership between Bosnia's Muslims and Croats and relations between the two groups in territory captured from the Serbs in northern and western Bosnia.

Miranda Sidran, a Bosnian embassy spokeswoman, said

only that the two discussed "how to further improve their cooperation."

In Banja Luka, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said his forces would retaliate against the Muslim-Croat army offensive and reconquer lost Serb territory.

"We have stopped this offensive and we will try to liberate some of these traditional Serb territories," Mr. Karadzic told reporters in the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka, towards which Muslim and Croat forces have pushed over the past two weeks.

Milan Milutinovic, foreign minister of the rump Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), said in Paris the war in former Yugoslavia is nearing its end and most issues have been settled.

"Eighty to 90 per cent of the issues are already the subject of agreement" on the basis of the declaration of principle adopted in Geneva on Sept. 8, he said in an interview with AFP the day after talks with French leaders.

The Geneva declaration was endorsed by Bosnia, Croatia and the rump Yugoslavia as well as the five nation (Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States) contact group.

The territorial gains in the west by the joint Croatian-Muslim offensive "very near

(Continued on page 7)

Ciller in search for new coalition

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Tansu Ciller is set to get down on Friday to try to form a new coalition government out of Turkey's fractious political parties, two days after she broke up the last one by resigning.

"The prime minister will meet with the DYP (True Path Party)'s general administration council today," an official from Ms. Ciller's office told Reuters. Ms. Ciller leads the DYP.

DYP Deputy Chairman Rifat Serdaroglu told Turkish television earlier Ms. Ciller would try to meet other party leaders, beginning with the leader of the main opposition, as soon as possible.

She has said she wants to avoid early elections to continue pushing her policy agenda. But the main opposition Motherland Party (ANAP) has already staked out a contrary position, saying it would only enter an agreement that led to early polls.

The Turkish markets recovered equilibrium early on Friday after the turmoil of the last two days that saw big drops in shares after the coalition collapsed.

Ms. Ciller was asked by President Suleyman Demirel on Thursday night to form a new government following her resignation the day before. She quit in a rift over domestic security issues with the Social Democrats, under new leader Deniz Baykal, ending the wobbly coalition between them and her conservative DYP.

Istanbul's stock index gained 1.29 per cent by mid-day to reach 41,159.85 in buying in a continuation of a strong rebound that began on Thursday. The Turkish lira stood at around 47,880 to the dollar from 48,120 at Thursday's close.

Amnesty urges Turkey to implement reforms

LONDON (A) — The Turkish government has failed to enact reforms needed to improve the country's human rights situation, amnesty international said Thursday.

The London-based human rights organisation said Turkey's record would be under scrutiny because of the European Parliament's discussions in October about proposed customs union with Turkey.

Amnesty International listed three key reforms it said would signal beginnings of serious change in Turkey: Reform of a law that punishes "separatist propaganda" with imprisonment; prompt access to legal counsel for those in custody; and shortening of the maximum police detention before a court appearance.

Mr. Serdaroglu said Ms. Ciller was likely to first approach ANAP leader Mesut Yilmaz, whose centre-right party has been seen as a better coalition partner than the Social Democrats.

"Of course she will meet Yilmaz first, because they (ANAP) have the most seats in parliament after DYP," he said.

The DYP has 182 seats in the 450-seat parliament, ANAP has 96 and the Social Democrats have 65 seats.

Mr. Yilmaz has virtually ruled out forming a lasting coalition with Ms. Ciller over the issue of when elections should take place: "An ANAP-DYP government until normal election time is the least likely possibility — virtually zero per cent," he told private ATV television late on Thursday.

Ms. Ciller has repeatedly said early elections would be a mistake and vowed to press on with the policy agenda of her 27 months in power — customs union with Europe, a Turkey-bound Caspian oil pipeline, privatisation and democracy reforms.

She says the economics of elections would damage her 1994 austerity plan, brought in to quell a fiscal crisis.

The Turkish media is speculating that Ms. Ciller could form alliances with the smaller liberal and nationalist parties.

If she gets nowhere with ANAP, Ms. Ciller could forego a coalition and try to rule in a minority government with the support of a small far-right party.

But many senior politicians, including Parliament Speaker Husamettin Cindoruk, and newspaper columnists say a minority government is the least viable alternative.



QOURIEA ILL: Palestinian chief negotiators Ahmad Qouriea (Abu Alaa) is carried on a stretcher early Friday to an ambulance in Tabat after he collapsed suffering from 'exhaustion' during marathon talks with Israel on expanding Palestinian self-rule (see page one). Mr. Qouriea was discharged from hospital later Friday (AFP photo)

Israeli shelling kills Hizbollah guerrilla

RASHAYA (R) — One pro-Iranian Hizbollah militant was killed in Israeli shelling of guerrilla-held hills in southeastern Lebanon overnight, security sources said on Friday.

They said the guerrilla was killed when more than 55 heavy artillery shells slammed between midnight and early morning into the Mashghara and 'Ain Al Tineh heights north of the eastern sector of Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone.

The hills used by Hizbollah (Party of God) as a springboard for attacks against the border strip were targeted by Israeli air force jets on Thursday in an air raid but no one was hurt.

The air attack was in apparent retaliation for the killing of one Israeli soldier and the wounding of seven others in Hizbollah attacks this week.

A Hizbollah spokesman said the fighter, a member of the Islamic Resistance, Hizbollah's armed wing, was killed when Israeli artillery rained 155-millimetre shells on Birket Jabour and Jabel Abou Rached, in the western Bekaa Valley.

U.S. supports conditional Iraqi entry into disarmament group

GENEVA (USIA) — The United States has recommended that a decision by the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to admit in principle 23 new members take effect immediately, but it has set a single condition — that proposed new member Iraq not be given the right of veto while it remains subject to U.N. Security Council sanctions.

"The United States thinks that is a fairly logical prohibition," said Ambassador Stephen J. Ledogar, leader of the U.S. delegation to the CD.

"Iraq would not be permitted, so long as they remained subject to U.N. Security Council comprehensive enforcement measures, to stand up and say, 'No, we don't want the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to go forward,' or, 'We don't want other future disarmament measures to take effect,'" Mr. Ledogar said.

In its decision on Thursday, the Conference on Disarmament adopted a report recommending the admission of Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, Iraq, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland,

Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

But the CD did not set a date for their admission, stating simply that the selected countries will all assume conference membership together at the earliest possible date to be decided by the conference and that the situation is to be reviewed on a periodic basis.

Immediately following the adoption of that decision, the United States tabled a proposal that the 23 nations "assume together membership of the conference as of midnight today."

But the U.S. proposal also contains the qualification that any members, new or old, be prevented from standing alone to deny consensus on a proposal if that member is subject to comprehensive enforcement measures taken by the Security Council under chapter VII of the U.N. Charter.

"Now the fact is there is only one country on the list of 23 that is subject to U.N. sanctions and that is Iraq," Mr. Ledogar said in an interview after submitting the proposal to the conference.

The 1995 session of the CD, the world's only multilateral arms control negotiating body, concludes September 22, and Mr. Ledogar said he was hopeful that the U.S. proposal would be acted on by the conference on its final day.

"Even if it doesn't pass tomorrow, this proposal has made perfectly clear to everyone that there is only one problem regarding this list of future members, and that is Iraq's performance — or non-performance — to be precise — under the sanctions that were imposed by the U.N. Security Council," he said.

"If we don't achieve consensus on this tomorrow, we will try to build support for it in New York at the United Nations First Committee (the disarmament committee, which meets this year from October 16-November 17) of the 50th General Assembly."

The Conference on Disarmament currently has 38 members, including all five nuclear weapons states. Mr. Ledogar noted that the 23 countries proposed as members September 21 have already been able to participate extensively in the CD as non-member participants, who under CD rules can attend meetings, circulate papers and make contributions but cannot break consensus on any issue.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish court bans 'peace call'

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's independent Human Rights Association said on Friday a state security court banned a "peace call" the group made demanding an end to the 11-year war between Turkish soldiers and separatist Kurdish rebels. The Ankara court ordered the group's bulletin collected earlier this week on grounds of "separatist propaganda," Nazmi Gur, an association official, told Reuters. The bulletin calls for lifting restrictions on Kurdish cultural and political identity and asks both sides to lay down their weapons and work for a political solution to end the fighting that has killed more than 19,000 people. Mr. Gur said the association's general secretary met the public prosecutor on Thursday to answer questions about the bulletin and the court was considering opening a case for "separatist propaganda" under article 8 of the anti-terror law. The European Parliament has threatened to veto a lucrative customs union with Turkey if the government does not institute democratic reforms such as lifting article 8.

Foreigners sentenced to 140 lashes in UAE

DUBAI (R) — A foreign man and a woman were each sentenced to 140 lashes in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) "for living in sin," a newspaper reported on Friday. Islamic law court in Sharjah found the man guilty of "indulging in illicit relationships and cohabitation" and sentenced him to 140 lashes followed by deportation, the Gulf News daily reported. It said a foreign woman was sentenced to one month in prison and 140 lashes to be followed by deportation after admitting in court that she had visited the man's home "on more than one occasion." A third defendant, a female maid, will also be deported for living with the man for more than three months.

Fewer Israelis expect progress for peace

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of Israelis who expect progress to be made towards peace with the Arabs has dropped to 45 per cent compared with 64 per cent a year ago. A poll published Friday found 45 per cent thought there would be progress, 33 per cent thought nothing would change and 20 per cent said the situation would worsen. Two per cent gave no opinion. A year ago when the Yediot Aharanot newspaper asked the same question 64 per cent predicted progress and only 14 per cent a deterioration. The daily also asked Israelis what had been the most positive event over the last 12 months. Thirty-three per cent said the peace process with the Palestinians and 14 per cent the peace treaty with Jordan. The remainder gave no reply. The survey of a representative sample of 500 Israelis was carried out for the Jewish new year, which begins Sunday evening. The error margin was four per cent.

UAE recognises Palestinian passport

DUBAI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has recognised the new Palestinian passport issued by the Palestinian self-rule authority, UAE newspapers reported on Friday. It quoted an official source at the Palestinian embassy in Abu Dhabi as saying "with this recognition, the holders of the (Palestinian) passport have the right to reside, work and visit the country." The source said the Palestinian embassy in Abu Dhabi and the consulate in Dubai will start receiving passport applications from all Palestinians living in the UAE. "The UAE Department of Immigration and Naturalisation has issued a circular to endorse the Palestinian passport at all entry points of the country," he said.

Kuwait labour delegation visits Yemen

DUBAI (R) — A Kuwaiti labour delegation has arrived in Sanaa in the first such visit to Yemen in five years, Gulf news agencies said on Friday. It said a team from Kuwait's General Labour Union headed by its president, Thabet Al Haroon, arrived in the Yemeni capital on Thursday night at an invitation from his Yemeni counterpart. It quoted Al Haroon as saying they will be meeting in Sanaa with officials from "official bodies and institutions" in addition to trade unions. Mr. Haroon said the visit, the first of its kind in five years, was aimed at boosting relations between the two countries' labour unions. Relations between the two countries have been strained since 1990 because of perceived Yemeni sympathy towards Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait that year.

Germany resumes aid to Turkey

BONN (AFP) — Germany on Wednesday decided to resume its military aid to Turkey, suspended in March in protest over Ankara's military incursions into northern Iraq to flush out Kurdish rebels. The resumption was signalled by a finance commission of the Bundestag, or lower house of parliament, which voted to provide 150 million marks (\$100 million) in aid to allow Turkey to buy two frigates. Germany had suspended its aid because of major Turkish military incursions into Iraq to crush rebels of the Kurdish Labour Party. Turkey claimed a right of hot pursuit, saying the Kurdish rebels had been using bases inside Iraq to launch attacks on its own Kurdish region.

Syrian named deputy chief of Arab League

CAIRO (AFP) — Syria's former chief peace negotiator with Israel, Muwaffaq Al Alal, has been named assistant secretary general of the Arab League, the organisation said Friday. He is to replace Adnan Omran, another Syrian, whose mandate runs out at the end of December. His appointment was approved unanimously at a Cairo conference of league foreign ministers on Wednesday and Thursday. Mr. Alal, 67, was his country's representative to the United Nations from 1975 and then headed the Syrian delegation in direct talks with Israel after the Madrid peace conference on October 1991.

World Bank raises alarm over rising Arab unemployment

By Khattab Salman
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Unemployment has risen enormously in the Middle East in the last decade, and now seems more widespread than any other region of the world, according to a report on regional perspectives on world development 1995.

The report, "Will Arab Workers Prosper or Be Left Out in the Twenty-First Century?" issued by the World Bank, states that unemployment rates are around 20 per cent in Algeria, Jordan, the West Bank, Yemen, and Lebanon, while it is around

15 per cent in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

The annual growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) per worker in the Middle East and North Africa has declined in the last decade in Algeria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Syria, while it rose in Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia, the report said.

In most of the region real wages declined sharply during the mid-to-late 1980s, and have stagnated since. In manufacturing, for which data exist for most countries, wage growth during the 1970s was comparable to that of East Asia, Latin America

and Eastern Europe. While wages took off in East Asia in the 1980s, they fell in other regions, but more sharply, of about 30 per cent in the Arab countries, the report added.

On a positive note, the report said that poverty levels, unlike unemployment, are low by international standards. "Arab societies tend to be nearly as equal as those with a socialist tradition, and their poverty levels are a third of those found in Latin American countries with similar incomes." However, the report explained, poverty has been rising fast in several countries of the region. Poverty levels rose in Egypt

by 30 per cent in the first half of the last decade, while it was 90 per cent in Jordan over the same period.

In Egypt, the report added, "the proportion of the population under the poverty line (\$30 a month per person in real dollars) increased by about 30 per cent between 1985 and 1990 and has continued to rise since then because labour demand remained weak and consumption subsidies have been reduced."

In Jordan, for which the external environment deteriorated much more, poverty tripled.

Unemployment by gender

in Jordan is 35 per cent for women and 14 per cent for men with a total rate of unemployment of 18.8 per cent making it the third highest unemployment rate in the region after the West Bank with about 30 per cent, and Algeria with 21 per cent.

The report noted that although the public sector, which is the main employer in many countries in the region, is now under pressure and has stopped hiring, still has a large share of the labour force on the government payroll. The percentage of government employees of the total labour force in Kuwait is 92 per cent, Algeria 58 per

cent, Jordan 48 per cent, Bahrain 43 per cent, Tunisia and Egypt 38 per cent, Syria 35 per cent, and the West Bank and Gaza 19 per cent.

It added that maintaining large public sectors unjustifiably burdens the economy. In Jordan, for example, tax revenues have risen to nearly 30 per cent of GDP, effectively reducing competition and real wages in the private sector.

Another shortcoming of state-led economies, said the report is macroeconomic stability that is constantly threatened by pressures for wage increases for the large

(Continued on page 7)

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 ... Back to the Future
14:30 ... Harry and the Hendersons
15:00 ... Mountain Men
15:45 ... Only in Hollywood
16:00 ... Families
17:00 ... Children's programme — Les Mondes Englois
17:30 ... Doc — Le Baccantaire du Louvre
18:00 ... Drama — Operation Open
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Magazine — Fast Past Revue
19:30 ... New Headlines
19:35 ... First Flights
20:00 ... Major Dad
20:30 ... The Bold and the Beautiful
21:00 ... Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman
22:00 ... News in English
22:25 ... Feature film: "The Return of Elton Ness"
23:50 ... The Noble House

PRAYER TIMES

6:02 ... Fajr
6:19 ... Sunrise (Shafiq) Dhuhr
12:28 ... Dhuhr
15:56 ... Asr
18:37 ... Maghreb
19:54 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 62751.
The Lutheran Church Tel. 62526.
Church of the Holy Spirit Tel. 62521.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 62526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 62438.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Vietnam Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 61205.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 61205.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Hot weather conditions are expected to continue today with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 18 / 32
Amman 24 / 36
Aqaba 24 / 36
Dahab 15 / 34
Jordan Valley 23 / 37
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Munther Al Otaibi 884286
Dr. Khalil Abu Jaroub 779797
Dr. Shihab Al Otaibi 757233
Dr. Ibrahim Lubadiah 653285
First Aid 661912
Veterinary pharmacy 778336
Al Aqaba pharmacy 62472
Nairoh pharmacy 626730
Al Salan pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Najid pharmacy 687632
pected to continue today with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shoaibi 246140
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Karim Khushashneh 983023
Hotel Complaints 628000
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Repairs (Directorate) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 62101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

FOOD CONTROL CENTRE 637111
Civil Defence Department 611111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 628000
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Repairs (Directorate) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 62101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alla Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332
Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann 6442816
Alkhalid Maternity, J. Ann 6442412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612157
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mubajreen 7771013
Army, Marka 89161115
Ousse Alla Hospital 6224030
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 863199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90990

IRBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
De Al Nafes Hospital (02)47100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 ... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
07:00 ... Damascus (RJ)
08:00 ... New Delhi (RJ)
09:30 ... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 ... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:30 ... Beirut (RJ)
11:00 ... Colombo (RJ)
15:45 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:05 ... Milan (add) (RJ)
18:15 ... Istanbul (RJ)
19:00 ... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
19:15 ... London, Berlin (RJ)
20:40 ... Vienna (RJ)
22:20 ... Madrid (RJ)
23:00 ... Riyadh (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
04:20 ... Vienna (OS)
11:10 ... Damascus (AZ)
13:40 ... Sharjah, Doha (GF)
15:10 ... Rome (AZ)
20:35 ... Cairo (MS)
21:10 ... Beirut (ME)
21:40 ... Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:25 ... Larnaca (CY)
00:30 ... London, Damascus (BA)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights (Terminal 1)
06:40 ... Beirut (RJ)
07:00 ... Milan (add) (RJ)
08:00 ... Aqaba (RJ)
12:40 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45 ... Istanbul (RJ)
13:00 ... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:10 ... Paris (RJ)
13:10 ... Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
13:15 ... Larnaca (CY)
14:05 ... Brussels (RJ)
21:05 ... London (RJ)
21:10 ... Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
21:45 ... Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:20 ... Riyadh (add) (RJ)
23:00 ... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:45 ... Beirut (ME)
12:10 ... Rome (AZ)

13:40 ... Vienna (OS)
14:30 ... Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
21:25 ... Cairo (MS)
23:20 ... Larnaca (CY)
23:59 ... Damascus, Paris (AF)
00:25 ... Amsterdam (RJ)
01:50 ... London (BA)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in file per kg.
Apple 600 / 400
Banana 600 / 400
Branza (Mukammal) 150 / 80
Cabbage 150 / 80
Carrot 420 / 220
Cauliflower 240 / 120
Cucumbers (large) 300 / 200
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 200
Eggplant 250 / 150
Figs 320 / 220
Garlic 700 / 300
Lemon 300 / 200
Marrow (large) 300 / 200
Marrow (small) 400 / 150
Onion (dry) 140 / 80
Onion (skry) 150 / 700
Orange 400 / 200
Peaches 100 / 50
Pineapple 220 / 150
Potato 270 / 170
String Beans 650 / 300
Tomato 650 / 300
Water Melon 110 / 70

BRIEF

peace call

Independent Human Rights Commission, demanding an end to the court-ordered separation of the sexes on grounds of "security" for lifting restrictions on identity and asking both sides to work for a political solution. The commission said it had more than 10,000 people to answer questions and to consider opening a new chapter in the history of the country with the lifting of the restrictions. The commission also said it would be deposed within three months.

140 lashes in UAE

A woman was sentenced to 140 lashes in the United Arab Emirates for adultery. The woman was found guilty of adultery after a court trial. The woman was sentenced to 140 lashes in the UAE.

progress for peace

Number of Israelis who are peace with the Arab has increased by 64 per cent. The number of Israelis who are peace with the Arab has increased by 64 per cent. The number of Israelis who are peace with the Arab has increased by 64 per cent.

Arab passport

Arab passport issued to a Palestinian. The passport was issued to a Palestinian. The passport was issued to a Palestinian.

aid to Turkey

aid to Turkey. The aid was given to Turkey. The aid was given to Turkey.

aid to Turkey

aid to Turkey. The aid was given to Turkey. The aid was given to Turkey.

aid to Turkey

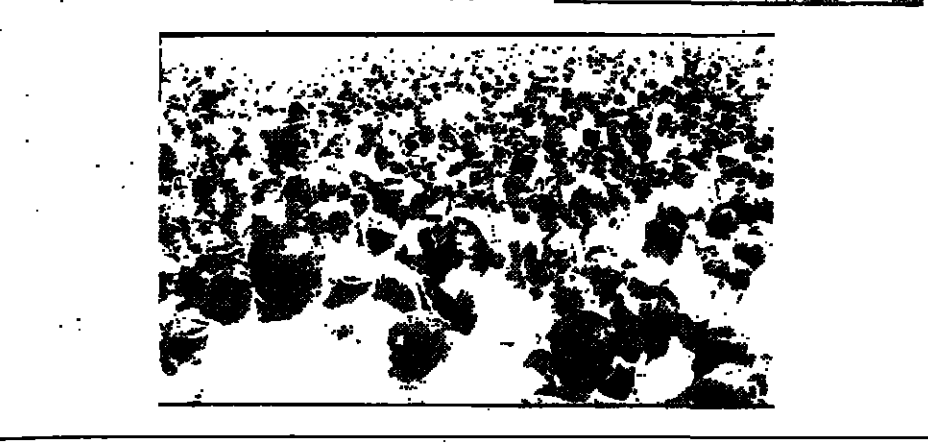
aid to Turkey. The aid was given to Turkey. The aid was given to Turkey.

aid to Turkey

aid to Turkey. The aid was given to Turkey. The aid was given to Turkey.

aid to Turkey

aid to Turkey. The aid was given to Turkey. The aid was given to Turkey.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Friday leads a march for the disabled organised by the Royal Jordanian Volunteers Team (Petra photo)

Queen leads march for the disabled

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor, accompanied by her daughters, Their Royal Highnesses Princesses Iman and Raiyah, Abeer Muhsen, and Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal, Friday led a 7-kilometre charity march from the Orthodox Club to Al-Husseini Sports City organised by the Royal Jordanian Volunteers Team (RJVT), according to a Royal Court statement.

Queen Noor, the Honorary Chairperson of RJVT, praised the participants and the members of the team who invested time and energy in raising the standard of centres for the disabled throughout the Kingdom and emphasised the importance of voluntary work.

Having noticed that during the march some participants discarded refreshment containers on the streets, the Queen suggested that waste bins should be made available along the way for participants' use.

The Queen then thanked and presented gifts to the youngest participants who helped pick up the litter.

The RJVT organises bi-annual training courses for the supervisors of the centres for the disabled as well as recreational trips for approximately 300 disabled children. It also provides the centres with furniture, equipment, toys and gifts.

Last year, the RJVT team raised JD 43,000 for 25 centres, whose services benefit 6,000 disabled children, the statement said.

Also accompanying the Queen and participating in the march were Hind Nassar and her daughter, Sharifa Nofah.

Ministry to launch school health service programme

AMMAN (Petra) — A new health services programme for 1995-1996 prepared by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Health is to start operating at government schools, according to a statement Friday by Nemat Sabel Aish, head of the ministry's School Health and Nutrition Department.

The programme will provide basic primary health and preventive medical services as well as regular medical tests and vaccinations for students, Mrs. Sabel Aish said.

The purpose behind the health services programme is to help combat contagious diseases that schools are particularly susceptible to. The health service will also offer health education through lectures and documentaries. The ministry official said although the health services programme was initiated in 1975, until 1989 there were only 16 medical teams comprising one general practitioner, one dentist and four assistants in each team that visited schools on a monthly basis.

These teams operated in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Balqa, Karak, Ma'an, Mafraq, Madaba, Jerash, Ajloun, Tafleeh, Ramtha and Southern Shuneh.

Medical teams eventually increased over the years in keeping with the increase in the number of students, she said. Clinics were then set up at schools in a number of governorates to make medical assistance available to the students.

A medical record is kept for each student at the school and free treatment is offered to the students in the health centres and the government hospitals, added Mrs. Sabel Aish.

The ministry has also prepared a training course for teachers of health education.



Workers take an afternoon break on the construction site of the Interior Ministry Circle-Abdali overpass. The elevated road is scheduled for completion prior to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit due to convene in Amman on Oct. 29-31 (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

World Bank to loan Jordan \$80m — planning minister

By Sa'ad Silawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Friday said that the World Bank will offer Jordan an \$80 million loan to support Jordanian economic reforms.

The minister said reforms include amendments to the Income Tax Law, the Sales Tax Law and the new laws on telecommunications, insurance and investments, as well as the Central Bank of Jordan's measures to reform the monetary system in Jordan and to allow commercial banks to deal with foreign currency in granting loans and raising the ceiling of credit to businesses and companies.

The minister also said that there will be no reduction in customs fees on cars.

The government only intends to shift part of the customs duty on cars to the sales tax, so imported car prices will remain unchanged.

Dr. Khalaf said that Japan will also offer Jordan an \$80 million soft loan to support Jordanian economic reforms.

'Israel restricts trade'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan Friday accused Israel of restricting trade between Jordan and Palestine.

Mr. Abu Hassan, who returned Friday from a visit to the Palestinian self-rule areas where he participated in a meeting of the Jordanian-Palestinian Business Council, said certain Israeli measures and restrictions are rendering Jordanian-Palestinian trade agreements futile.

Israel is blocking transit and transport operations with military road blocks, which were set up, according to Mr. Abu Hassan, under the pretext of inspecting trucks.

Mr. Abu Hassan, who met with heads of chambers of commerce and industry in Gaza, Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Nablus, said Israel is repeatedly closing off the Arab areas, delaying the issuance of travel permits, imposing restrictions on trucks crossing the bridges to Jordan for alleged security reasons and allowing a maximum number of 20 trucks to cross each day, five days a week.

He said such measures mean that trucks remain idle near the bridges for at least four days.

During that time, Mr. Abu Hassan said, truck owners are charged JD 45 daily for every tonne of goods being transported in permit fees to remain waiting.

He said Israel is also demanding that trucks be unloaded for goods inspection and that the truckowners pay the wages for workers to load and unload their vehicles.

Jordanian trucks are also being charged JD 48 to enter the self-rule areas.

Israel is charging a toll of JD 18 for each tonne of Jordanian cement sent to the self-rule areas in addition to an Israeli purchase tax known as 'tama tax', according to Mr. Abu Hassan who was accompanied by a team of Jordanian businessmen.

Mr. Abu Hassan said Israel is also banning Jordan's exports of foodstuffs to the self-rule areas, whereas similar products are allowed entry from Egypt.

Mr. Abu Hassan said Jordanian exporters are being forced to send products through Egypt, thus incurring additional expenses.

This issue, he said, needs to be re-examined by the Palestinian National Authority and Jordan as well as with exporters and importers on both sides.

Ministry looks into complaints about public establishments admitting minors

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Social Development recently initiated a campaign to monitor public coffee shops and recreational centres that offer water pipes (argilehs) to customers following complaints that these establishments were serving minors, according to ministry officials.

"We have received several complaints from people informing us that youths under 18 are smoking water pipes at food and beverage establishments, so we have accordingly increased our monitoring," said Musa Safi, director of the Social Defence Department at the ministry.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Safi said monitors visit coffee shops regularly, "but after receiving new complaints, their efforts doubled."

According to Mr. Safi, during the past two months, ministry inspectors have caught 25 youths, including one female, under the age of 18 smoking water pipes in different public places in the city.

The ministry official said that the families of the 25 youths were uncooperative.

"All the families we contacted told us they have allowed their children to smoke water pipes," he said.

Mr. Safi said that the ministry's prime concern is to protect children from being exposed to unhealthy habits as well as to protect them from frequenting unsuitable areas.

"We study each case individually and try to determine why these youngsters are resorting to such places," he said.

According to Mr. Safi, none of the places where children were caught was shut down. Instead they were issued a warning by the concerned authorities.

He added that the increase in the number of minors frequenting coffee houses and social entertainment places "became noticeable" after the beginning of the scholastic year.

According to Mr. Safi, the ministry is drafting proposed legislations concerning the protection of minors. The ministry will cooperate with other institutions to evaluate the possible negative consequences of youths frequenting billiard and video game centres, coffee houses and other public recreational establishments.

The authorities include the ministries of Youth, Education, Interior and Social Development, as well as the Public Security Department (PSD).

The proposed legislation would make "uniform any regulation concerning the admission of minors to recreational establishments."

Such regulations would include that such establishments require that any youth entering its premises provide valid identification. It would also make provisions for designating hours and places where minors would be allowed to enter.

"We have noticed an increase in awareness among people concerning youth, and many people have requested our intervention to stop what could become a negative trend," he said.

"We encourage the public's interest in the safety of our youth and we will act upon all concerns expressed by citizens," Mr. Safi told the Jordan Times.

'Peace process strengthens Arab-American lobby efforts'

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Consecutive peace agreements between Arab parties and Israel, showing a new readiness in the area to move towards peace and stability, have strengthened the position of Arab-American groups lobbying for American financial aid to the Middle East, according to Ibrahim Hawatmeh, President of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA).

The historic Oslo agreement between Israel and the PLO and the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, revealing a new trend of solving conflict by peaceful means, has provided U.S. readiness to provide financial assistance for the consolidation of peace in the region, said Dr. Hawatmeh, who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

"The role of Arab-American lobbying groups in the US now is to show the American public and U.S. Congress that peace and political stability in the Middle East are in America's national interest, and that this political stability depends in large part on people in the region reaping the economic benefits of peace," said Dr. Hawatmeh, in an interview with the Jordan Times Friday.

The NAAA is a leading Arab-American political organisation which lobbies the U.S. Congress and administration for an even-handed U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

"The people of the Middle East must see that peace is a good thing, which can improve their overall living conditions. At this moment, this can only be guaranteed by securing outside aid," Dr. Hawatmeh said.

"Our role is to make the American public and the U.S. administration understand that it pays to channel American money to the region for peaceful purposes now, rather than to spend billions of dollars on solving a crisis, as happened in the event of the Gulf War," he added.

The role of political groups lobbying for financial aid to the Middle East becomes particularly important now, at a time when the U.S. Congress is trying to cut welfare and foreign aid, he said.

Dr. Hawatmeh, an American citizen of Jordanian origin, sees his election last year as president of the organisation as a sign that the NAAA is supporting Jordan's role as a vital agent for lasting peace in the Middle East.

"The Board of Directors of the NAAA voted to concentrate on the issue of peace between Jordan, Palestine and Israel," Dr. Hawatmeh told the Jordan Times.

"Jordan's ability to function as a central regional actor in this crucial phase depends in large part on U.S. willingness to help them meet pressing economic needs."

Dr. Hawatmeh was a member of the delegation that accompanied President Bill Clinton on his visit to the Kingdom to attend the signing ceremony of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

Commenting on the prospect of a high-level delegation from Jordan attending the signing ceremony in Washington of a second Palestinian-Israeli agreement, expected later this month, Dr. Hawatmeh said it showed that Palestinians and Jordanians were going into the peace process together.

"There is a long way to go in this peace process, but it is happening with the approval of both parties, Jordanians and Palestinians. The presence of high-ranking Jordanian officials at the ceremony in Washington will underline that Palestinians and Jordanians are working together for the establishment of peace in the region," he said.

Dr. Hawatmeh, a practicing urologist and clinical assistant professor at St. Louis University School of Medicine, described members of the NAAA as American citizens of Arab origin who care about their Arab background and want to participate in the American political system which, he said, has often been biased against the interests of Arab countries.

The organisation is involved in a wide range of issues pertaining to U.S.-Arab bilateral relations, including the Middle East peace process, the economic reconstruction of Lebanon, U.S. foreign aid, regional security concerns and other economic, political and security aspects of U.S. relations with the Arab world, according to the NAAA.



Ibrahim Hawatmeh

WHAT'S GOING ON

SWISS CULTURAL WEEK

Films

- "Journeys into the Country's Interior," and "Candy Mountain," (with subtitles in Arabic) at 5.00pm and 8.00pm at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- "Always and Forever" and "The Mountain" (with Arabic subtitles) at 5.00pm and 8.00pm at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday.

Exhibitions

- Two photography exhibitions: "Swiss photographers since 1840 until today," and "Face to Face with Switzerland," at the RCC.

LECTURE

- "How to Make Language Malleable" by Dr. Abdullah Al Danan at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, at 6.30pm.

EXHIBITIONS

- Jordanian-Syrian-Turkish products at King Abdullah Gardens, Al Bas-sam Hall.
- Abstract artworks by Abdullah Tamimi entitled, "Colours of Peace," at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Works by Hani Khaza'leh at the Goethe Institut, Jabal Amman.

Ceramics by Dr. Mahmoud Saddiq and Da'd Al Maflih at the Marriott Hotel.

- Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural Centre.
- Paintings by Sudanese artists at Baladna Art Gallery.
- "Beneath the Waves," photographs on Aqaba underwater life by Julia Reinhold at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.
- Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- Works by artist Ghazi 'Asayrah at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.

DARAT AL FUNUN

"Graphic work" by several artists and students in the South Gallery.

- Photography of Jordan, "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue House.
- Painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.
- "Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Ali Bermamet
- Open Air Sculpture workshop. Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

Japan's Hashimoto wins party leadership contest

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto Friday easily won election as leader of the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the nation's trade disputes with the United States.

Mr. Hashimoto's new post gives him added weight in coalition discussions about ways to stimulate a sluggish economy that remains stubbornly unresponsive to a series of massive government spending packages.

During the race for party president, Mr. Hashimoto called for more fiscal and monetary stimulus measures for the economy and said he supported structural economic reform.

But the calls for more radical reform came from Mr. Koizumi, 53, a maverick who entered the race partly to give the appearance of a contest in a party with a tradition of choosing its leaders in smoke-filled backrooms.

Mr. Koizumi called for

privatising Japan's massive postal savings system and other forms of sweeping deregulation — reforms popular among Japan's citizens and trade partners, but anathema to LDP stalwarts.

Despite Mr. Hashimoto's reputation for problem solving, which was enhanced earlier this year when he averted a Japan-U.S. trade war over cars and car parts, analysts cautioned against expecting fundamental change from the new LDP president.

"Most of the reform-minded members of the LDP have left the party to join the opposition Shinshinto, and the watchwords of Japan's new politics will be nationalism and conservatism rather than openness and liberalism," said Ronald Bevacqua, an economist at Merrill Lynch Japan.

"Expectations of a rapid redirection of economic policy under Mr. Hashimoto are quite likely misplaced," he said.

Political pundits say the hawkish Hashimoto's election augurs for a more assertive LDP role in the coalition, in contrast to the deferential approach of outgoing party President Yohsei Kono, the foreign minister.

Mr. Hashimoto, however, has vowed to continue to support the 15-month-old government of Mr. Murayama, who Thursday said he intended to stay in office until next spring in order to pass the national budget for fiscal 1996.

The LDP's liberal partners, the Socialists and Sakigake Party, had expressed discomfort at the idea of working with a leader from the right wing of Japan's most conservative party.

Turnout for the leadership vote was low, with party officials saying that only about 55 per cent of the LDP's nationwide membership cast votes.

House votes to tighten Cuba embargo; Christopher urges veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted Thursday to tighten pressure on Fidel Castro's Cuba with steps Secretary of State Warren Christopher said would damage prospects for peaceful change and hinder U.S. interests around the world.

Voting 294-130, the House approved a bill that would strengthen the U.S. embargo against Cuba, partly by increasing U.S. pressure against other countries to join it.

The bill would require the president to withhold aid from countries that deal with Cuba, deny entry of anyone who traffics in U.S. property confiscated by Mr. Castro and make plans for assisting an elected Cuban government.

Mr. Christopher, in a letter to House Speaker Newt Gingrich, rejected all the bill's major provisions, saying they would hinder any progress with Cuba, and called for a veto.

A similar measure is pending in the Senate. The House "yes" vote, with 67 Democrats joining all but 4 Republicans, was sufficient to override a veto.

"We are in the final stages of confrontation that has lasted more than a generation," said Rep. Robert Torricelli, a New Jersey Democrat and a bill supporter.

"Fidel Castro cannot escape. He cannot survive unless we allow him to," Democratic Rep. Lee H. Hamilton said every member of the House agrees that Mr. Castro must go. But he said the bill wrongly heaps more suffering on Cuban people in the hope that they will rise up against their government.

"The competing philosophy is that governments can be toppled peacefully, by exposure to the free flow of ideas and the benefits of free markets," Mr. Hamilton said.

Mr. Christopher, in his letter Wednesday, said the

Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act "would actually damage prospects for a peaceful transition."

He said it also would "jeopardise other key U.S. interests around the globe" by restricting aid to Russia and other former Soviet nations and by limiting dealing with countries that participate in completion of a Cuban nuclear power plant.

"This kind of rigid conditioning of assistance can have far-reaching consequences and may interfere with our ability to advance the national interest," Mr. Christopher said. He said it would also impede efforts to resolve U.S. citizens' claims against Cuba.

The bill includes provisions intended to protect the interests of U.S. citizens and businesses whose property was confiscated by the Castro regime, enabling them to sue people who traffic in the confiscated property and prohibiting the entry of such people into the United States.

In addition to Mr. Christopher's letter, the State Department issued a point-by-point rejection of the bill's provisions.

The House, on a 283-138 vote, rejected a Democratic amendment that would have exempted sales of medicine and food to Cuba from the embargo.

The bill has the strong support of Cuban American organisations and dissidents within Cuba, as well as Cuban American members of Congress.

Meanwhile, former President Jimmy Carter held talks in Atlanta Wednesday aimed at improving U.S.-Cuban relations.

Mr. Carter, who has conducted a number of private peacekeeping initiatives around the world, is trying to schedule a meeting with Cuban government leaders but no date has been set.

Havana said Thursday the

bill tightening the U.S. embargo on Cuba would not destroy the island's Socialist system but would hinder possible solutions to the U.S.-Cuba conflict.

"With this law or without it, the Cuban Revolution will go on," Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman Rafael Dausa told a news conference in Havana.

Mr. Dausa said the legislation could have some "negative effects" for Cuba, which has been seeking foreign investment to help pull its economy out of recession.

But he added: "I don't think it's going to discourage foreign investment nor limit our economic recovery, nor will it destroy the foundations of our revolution."

"But I do think that it will complicate the solution of the Cuban dispute (with the United States)."

Cuba and the United States have not had full diplomatic relations since Washington broke off diplomatic ties with Havana in 1961.

Asked about talks on Cuba with Cuban exile leaders held by Mr. Carter, Mr. Dausa said the Cuban government did not need any mediator between itself and the Cuban emigre community.

"We have communication with the Cuban exile community," he said, adding that the Cuban government would host a conference with Cuban emigre representatives in Havana on Nov. 3-6.

He said Cuba's government had received no invitation to participate in specific talks with the exiles.

"Our real conflict is not with the exiles. The Cuban conflict is with the United States," Mr. Dausa said, adding the United States had so far not shown the political will needed to solve the longstanding dispute.

Russia's election chief urges voters to be wise

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's top election official urged voters Thursday to think twice before signing up to launch political parties, warning they might face a bewildering choice between dozens of rival groups in December's elections.

Central Electoral Commission chairman Nikolai Ryabov told a news conference that 45 parties and blocs had put themselves forward for the Dec. 17 parliamentary poll. But if citizens withheld their signatures from parties canvassing support this "vast armada" of parties and candidates could be thinned out to a much more sensible number.

Mr. Ryabov said each party or bloc had the right to be registered to fight the election for the State Duma (lower chamber) if it mustered the required 200,000 signatures by midnight on Oct. 22.

"But I appeal through the press to citizens to be responsible in using their right to give their signatures for the parties, blocs and unions," he said.

"If not, then on Dec. 17 citizens will be faced with such a big menu that they will be so confused they'll be poisoned," he said.

The present, 450-seat Duma is comprised of nine main parties, dominated by Communist, Agrarian and Ultrarationalist critics of the government.

The well-organised Communists and the Agrarians are expected to perform strongly in the election, though how well the ultrarationalists of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy — who also did well in December 1993 — is harder to judge.



A man takes a nap on a bench before a stack of tombstones in northern Kashmir where Muslim rebels are waging a bloody separatist campaign against Indian forces (AFP photo)

India loses contact with kidnappers

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian authorities said Friday they have had no contact for two days with the Al-Farans militants holding four Western tourists captive in Kashmir, but they believed the hostages remained unharmed.

An administration official told Reuters the militants had not made their usual nightly contact with the negotiators since Tuesday night, but said they had been warned of the break in communications.

"There is no cause to be alarmed," said Jammu and Kashmir Police Chief Mahender Sabharwal. "This has happened in the past, sometimes for four or five days at a time. We believe that the hostages are safe."

The Al-Farans militants kidnapped American Donald Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells early in July while they were trekking in the mountains of southern Kashmir.

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro, was found beheaded on Aug. 13. Near his body was a note threatening to kill the other hostages unless the government met

their demands for the release of 15 jailed militants within two days.

The deadline, and three subsequent ones, passed with no apparent harm to the hostages.

Al-Farans said it would release the tourists if India freed the jailed militants, including three Pakistanis belonging to the Harkat-ul-Ansar group.

Indian authorities have insisted that Al-Farans is actually a front for the Harkat-ul-Ansar. But the group has disowned Al-Farans and condemned the kidnapping.

The most recent evidence of the hostages' well-being dates to the end of August, an official spokesman said. "But all these days the information of the intermediary has been correct, so we believe they are safe," he said.

The Indian authorities communicate with Al-Farans by telephone, speaking to an intermediary nominated by the group. Very rarely has the group itself spoken to officials on radio.

A police officer told Reuters it was probable that Al-Farans had broken off negotiations in a fit of pique after discussions in Tuesday

evening's contact had no concrete result.

The officer said the militants had complained that Indian authorities had not offered anything in almost three months of negotiations, and had then curtailed the conversation.

Another official monitoring the negotiations in largely Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state, said he did not expect contact for another day or two.

Newspapers and domestic agencies reported last week that the militants were close to striking a deal with the authorities involving a cash payment. The ransom was variously estimated to range from \$750,000 to \$50 million.

Administration officials declined comment for fear of jeopardising the hostages' position. But police officers involved in the negotiations ruled out the talks of ransom.

"The Al-Farans were very upset at the reports," said an official. "They accused us of defaming them."

Hospitals and police say more than 20,000 people have been killed in the five-year war against Indian rule of the Himalayan region.

Suu Kyi asks Burma junta to keep democracy pledge

RANGOON (R) — Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Friday that Burma's military rulers, who grabbed power in 1988 promising the nation a return to democracy, should now keep to their word.

"The State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) promised democracy. We would like them to keep their promise. It's as simple as that," Suu Kyi, who was released in early July after nearly six years under house arrest, told Reuters in an interview.

"It is ironic that people are put into prison and persecuted simply because they are asking the government to keep their promise," the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate said.

Thousands of people were killed or imprisoned before seven months of student-led pro-democracy demonstrations across Burma were finally crushed on Sept. 18, 1988, when the military set up a new ruling body — the SLORC.

The leader of the SLORC at the time promised the nation the military would hold multi-party elections and return the country to democracy.

In a general election in May 1990, Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) swept more than 80 per cent of the seats. But the SLORC ignored the result and instead launched a massive crackdown on all opposition in the country.

Since her unexpected and unconditional release on July 10, Ms. Suu Kyi has repeatedly called on the SLORC for dialogue and national reconciliation but has been ignored.

Earlier this month, senior SLORC generals told the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, during a visit here that they were considering talks with Ms. Suu Kyi. But nothing formal has yet happened.

Ms. Suu Kyi, who has been meeting frequently with her NLD colleagues since gaining her freedom, said she believed her release may encourage others in Burma to be more open in their struggle for democracy.

"Perhaps they can afford to be a bit more frank... partly because my colleagues in the NLD are working together very

openly and, very unitedly," she said in the interview at her lakeside Rangoon home.

A pressing issue ahead for the NLD and Ms. Suu Kyi is the next session of a SLORC-organised national convention, which has been meeting since January 1993 to draw up guidelines for a new Burmese constitution.

The military-dominated gathering, which has already agreed on a clause to give the army a leading role in future politics, has been roundly criticised by dissidents in exile and by Ms. Suu Kyi herself in the past.

Ms. Suu Kyi declined comment on what position she and the NLD would take on the convention and also on her efforts to engage the SLORC in dialogue.

Reflecting on the events after the SLORC took power, Ms. Suu Kyi said: "It's amazing what people have gone through. It's not surprising that they are afraid... (but) they should be able to do what they think in spite of their fears."

Beauty festival highlights cosmetics demand in China

BEIJING (AFP) — The first China International Beauty and hairdressing festival opened here Thursday, an event seeking to profit from the fantastic demand for cosmetics in China's booming economy, the China Daily reported Friday. The four-day festival, organised by China Beauty and Hairdressing Services Organisation, will feature demonstrations, seminars and competitions, with Chinese and foreign participants, the official English-language daily said. Sales of beauty products in China reached 10 billion yuan (\$1.19 million) last year compared with 200 million yuan in 1984, while between 1979 and 1995, the number of salons rose from 10,000 to 700,000. In 1994 Chinese spent an average of nine yuan (\$1.1) a head in cosmetics, compared with 1.8 yuan in 1986. In large cities such as Beijing and Shanghai women spend around a fifth of their income on beauty products, the paper said.

Swedish store celebrates star employee

STOCKHOLM (R) — One of Greta Garbo's first workplaces, a department store in central Stockholm, will reopen Thursday remodelled with a permanent display honouring its most famous employee, the Swedish News Agency (TT) said. Hollywood siren Garbo, whose real name was Greta Gustafsson, was the youngest sales girl in the store when she began working at "The Pub" at the age of 15. "Greta is a quiet, but very good, sales girl. She always looks tidy and neat and has such a nice face," Garbo's then-supervisor Magda Hellberg said at the time. Thanks to her looks, Garbo was allowed to model hats and star in advertisements for baked goods, although originally hired as a clerk in the store's clothing department. Her salary was 125 crowns per month (\$17) during her two-year career at the store, it added. Swedish-born Garbo died in 1990.

Panda twins born in Germany

AUGSBURG, Germany (AFP) — Panda twins have been born in Augsburg, the city zoo has announced. They were born on June 25 this year, but the successful mating of five-year-old panda-mother Gabi with their father Ton was kept secret because of the notorious difficulty of breeding pandas in captivity. "We have only now made this rare event known, in order to shield the young from the pressure of publicity," said zoo worker Brigitte Gorgas. The zoo keepers had been unaware of the mating, and the sex of the young beasts is not yet known. Pandas, which are native to Nepal, Burma and parts of China, are difficult to breed because they are very fickle in their choice of partners.

Norway's Losers Union wins one, at last

OSLO (AP) — At last, chalk up a win for the losers. Two leading members of Norway's Losers Rights Union succeeded in getting an audience with King Harald V. They called the meeting a victory for all those who seem doomed to failure. "This was a real boost for the Losers. We hope it will put the issue on the social agenda," said Ola Odegard, founder of the group, which he said kept losing out because no one took it seriously. Losers, sick of feeling wronged by society, banded together in November 1993. Mr. Odegard said the group's 728 members now help about 7,000 fellow losers. "The only requirement for membership is that people really feel like losers," Mr. Odegard said. "We all suffer losses, such as when a loved one dies," he said.

Quebec voters want details of separation offer

MONTREAL (R) — Most Quebec voters want the provincial government to provide details of economic and political association it would offer the rest of Canada should the province vote to secede, a poll published Friday said.

In the poll for the Montreal daily newspaper La Presse and Radio-Quebec television programme Droit De Parole, three quarters of respondents said before the Oct. 30 referendum on Quebec sovereignty.

Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau should make public the offer his government would make to the rest of Canada. Mr. Parizeau has said that he will not provide details of the offer before the referendum.

An offer to negotiate an economic and political partnership with the rest of Canada after a referendum vote in favour of Quebec sovereignty is an integral part of the separatist Quebec government's referendum strategy.

On Oct. 30, Quebecers will vote on whether Quebec should become sovereign after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership. Quebec's 6.9 million people make up about one-quarter of Canada's population.

The Quebec government has said that if Quebecers vote in favour of separation, it would make such an offer and negotiate with the rest of Canada for one year before declaring Quebec

sovereign.

In the survey conducted for the newspaper and the television programme by the Som Inc. polling agency, 75 per cent of respondents said Mr. Parizeau should make the offer public before the referendum, 15 per cent said he should not and 10 per cent were undecided or did not respond.

The poll of 1,001 respondents was conducted between Sept. 15 and 18 and has a 3.88 per cent margin of error.

On another question, 73 per cent of respondents said the Canadian government should agree to negotiate an agreement on economic and political partnership with Quebec if Quebecers vote for sovereignty.

Simpson jurors may consider second degree murder

LOS ANGELES (R) — The judge in the O.J. Simpson trial handed the prosecution a victory Thursday, saying he would instruct the jurors that they could consider a verdict of second degree murder during their deliberations.

That instruction had been vigorously opposed by the football legend's lawyers, who believe their client stands a better chance with an all-or-nothing first degree murder or not guilty choice for the jury.

Judge Lance Ito, in granting the prosecution's request for a second degree murder instruction, noted that evidence had been presented supporting the pre-

meditation required for a verdict of first degree murder in the killing of Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson.

But Judge Ito said there was no evidence of premeditation in the stabbing death of her friend, Ronald Goldman, who was simply "in the wrong place at the wrong time" when the murders took place outside Nicole Simpson's condominium.

Simpson, who has pleaded not guilty to first degree murder, the only crime he was charged with in the June 12, 1994 killings, shook his head in disappointment as Judge Ito issued his ruling.

First degree murder carries a sentence of 25 years to life. A conviction on the lesser charge of second degree murder carries a sentence of 15 years to life.

Earlier, defence attorneys told Judge Ito they had no further witnesses and would formally rest their case before the jury Friday. Prosecutors said they would do the same.

Thursday's events ended the presentation of testimony that began on Jan. 31. Opening statements began on Jan. 24.

The jury will receive instructions from Judge Ito Friday and closing arguments are to begin Tuesday, exactly a year to the day

from when the trial officially started with jury selection. There will be no court session Monday because of a Jewish holiday, Rosh Hashanah.

In arguing for the second degree murder instruction, prosecutor Brian Kelberg said that without it jurors might be faced with the choice of believing Simpson was the murderer but not believing the murders were premeditated, forcing them to render a verdict of not guilty.

Legal analysts said Judge Ito's ruling on the subject was a "very significant victory" for the prosecution.

DING (AFP) — The China International Beauty Festival, an event seeking to boost the country's image and its growing economy, opened here today. The four-day festival, organised by China's Ministry of Culture and the China Daily newspaper, will feature beauty contests, fashion shows, and other activities. The festival is the first of its kind in China and is expected to attract thousands of visitors. The festival is also a platform for the Chinese government to showcase its economic and cultural achievements to the world.

Swedish store celebrates star employee

KKHO (AP) — On Tuesday, a Swedish store celebrated its star employee, a young woman who has worked for the store for several years. The store manager praised her for her dedication and hard work. The employee, who is a native of Sweden, has been working for the store since she graduated from high school. She has been a model employee, always going above and beyond for her customers. The store manager said that she is proud to have her as an employee and that she is a great asset to the team.

inda twins born in Germany

SHR (AP) — German doctors have announced the birth of a pair of identical twins in a hospital in Germany. The twins, who are identical, were born on Tuesday. The mother, who is a 25-year-old woman, gave birth to the twins after a normal pregnancy. The twins are healthy and are being cared for in the hospital. The doctors said that the twins are a rare occurrence and that they are very healthy. The twins are expected to be discharged from the hospital in a few days.

Norway's Losers win one, at last

OSLO (AP) — At last, a win for the "losers" of the 1995 Norwegian election. The Labour Party, which had been in power for 16 years, lost the election to the Conservative Party. The Labour Party had been in power since 1989 and had led the country through a period of economic growth and social progress. However, the Labour Party's policies had led to a high level of unemployment and a large budget deficit. The Conservative Party, which had been in opposition, promised to bring about a change in the government's policies. The Labour Party's loss was a surprise to many, as it had been expected to win the election.

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Two Chechen fighters have lunch with their machineguns next to them in Grozny (AFP photo)

Gunmen seize Russian officers in Chechnya

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Six gunmen took two Russian officers hostage in Chechnya just hours after a powerful bomb attack narrowly missed President Boris Yeltsin's envoy to the breakaway republic, Russian news agencies said Thursday.

The unidentified attackers seized the officers at a commandant's office in the capital, Grozny, Wednesday night. They then drove off in two Zhiguli cars.

Russian forces are searching for the gunmen, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

On Thursday morning, an explosion rocked a Grozny oil refinery — the second oil refinery blast in two days. It was unclear whether the blasts were accidental or sabotage.

Also Thursday, Oleg Lobov, secretary of Mr. Yeltsin's powerful Security

Council and the president's personal representative in Chechnya, left Grozny to meet with Mr. Yeltsin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Mr. Lobov narrowly escaped an explosion Wednesday which ripped through a bridge on Grozny's outskirts. The attack destroyed a car in Mr. Lobov's motorcade and wounded four people in his party. Mr. Lobov was not injured.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Some Russian lawmakers suggested it could have been the work of Chechen rebels or Russian hardliners trying to derail the peace process in Chechnya.

Mr. Yeltsin, vacationing in Sochi, Wednesday condemned the attack. His press service said the perpetrators "obviously sought to aggravate the situation in

Chechnya and torpedo the implementation of the military accord and efforts to reach political accord in the republic."

On Thursday, Movladi Udugov, chief representative of Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, denounced the attack and the "dirty insinuations" that Mr. Yeltsin's forces were responsible.

He offered to conduct a joint investigation with the Russians into the attack, the Interfax News Agency said. In response to Wednesday's attack, Russian nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov, chief Russian negotiator in peace talks, returned to Chechnya Thursday with his deputy, Arkady Volsky.

Mr. Volsky told Interfax the negotiators were also concerned about the Chechens' "unsatisfactory fulfillment" of a July 30

military agreement.

Mr. Yeltsin appointed the hawkish Lobov last month to oversee the disarmament of Chechen rebels and to supervise the withdrawal of Russian troops, who entered the southern republic last December to crush its independence drive.

Despite months of peace talks, and the shaky July 30 military agreement, fighting has continued to rock the tiny mountain republic.

The Russian military command reported that Chechen fighters opened fire on Russian positions 14 times overnight Wednesday, wounding two Russian servicemen.

Aslan Maskhadov, head of the Chechen forces, told Interfax that 32 Chechens have been killed in fighting in the past few days.

Clinton hopes race no factor if Powell seeks office

LOS ANGELES (R) — President Bill Clinton has said he will delay formally declaring his candidacy for a second term as long as possible and said he hoped America would be blind to Colin Powell's race if he seeks the White House.

Mr. Clinton, hoping to complete all his fundraising needs before the 1996 election year begins, Thursday wrapped up a four-state drive that raised \$5 million for his re-election coffers.

During a question and answer session that was on radio, Mr. Clinton said he wanted to get his fundraising needs "out of the way so I could spend as much time as possible trying to be president next year and defer the campaign as much as possible."

Mr. Clinton told programme host Larry King that "everyone knows I intend to run again" but that he "would like to put it off as long as possible because there's so much work to be done."

Insisting he did not know when he would formally

declare his candidacy for a second four-year term, Mr. Clinton said: "I just want to continue to focus on the substance of the changes we ought to make."

Mr. Clinton most likely will become a formal candidate late this year or early in 1996, before the Democratic Party's nomination process begins in February with the Iowa caucus and the New Hampshire primary.

He sidestepped most questions about Gen. Powell, the former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff who has said he will decide in November whether to run for president, either as a Republican or an independent.

Asked if he planned to read Gen. Powell's book, Mr. Clinton said, "I was kind of hoping he'd send me an autographed copy. I haven't got one yet."

Gen. Powell, the first black to serve as the nation's top military officer, has been shown in most opinion polls to be very popular and leading Mr. Clinton in a putative

head-to-head race for the White House as the Republican candidate.

The polls show Gen. Powell likely to be defeated if he runs as an independent candidate.

Mr. Clinton described Gen. Powell as "a very impressive man" who has gotten "a lot of very favourable publicity, and much of it very well deserved."

Insisting he did not worry about a Powell candidacy because "I have no control over that," Mr. Clinton said he hoped Gen. Powell's race would not be considered if he did run.

Asked if he thought America was ready to elect a black president, Mr. Clinton replied: "I would hope the American people would judge any candidate based on his or her merits without regard to race or gender."

"That's what I hope and that's the America that I have worked for all my life," he said.

Earlier in San Francisco, Mr. Clinton said he wanted

young "hooked on education" through computers and called for every classroom in America to be connected to the information superhighway by 2000.

Mr. Clinton challenged the public and private sectors to join him in crafting a national plan to achieve technological literacy for all young people. He expects to announce the plan later this fall.

"I want to get the children of America hooked on education through computers," Mr. Clinton said in a speech that followed a tour of a high-tech learning centre.

He praised California and said its efforts were a model for the United States. Through a cooperative effort with state and local governments and private business, California expects all of its 12,000 primary and secondary school classrooms to be connected to the Internet by the end of this year.

Currently, only three per cent of U.S. classrooms are connected.

Gloomy Adams warns of Northern Ireland violence

DUBLIN (R) — Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said Friday that violence could resume in Northern Ireland after a year of peace unless Britain stopped linking peace talks to the surrender of guerrilla arms.

"The natural outcome of failure will be that we slip back into the situation that some of us so carefully constructed a ladder out of," Mr. Adams said in some of his most gloomy remarks since his IRA guerrilla backers called a ceasefire one year ago.

Mr. Adams challenged British Prime Minister John Major to drop his insistence that the Irish Republican Army and pro-British loyalist guerrillas start surrendering weapons to win a seat for their political spokesmen at new all-party peace talks.

He said that Sinn Fein, the

IRA's political wing, had persuaded the guerrillas to declare their Sept. 1 1993, ceasefire but no progress had been made towards a lasting settlement because there had been no all-party talks.

"Architects of the process are pessimistic. We see the process as being doomed to failure," Mr. Adams told BBC Radio in an interview broadcast in Ireland.

He issued his warning as Irish Prime Minister John Bruton prepared to hold talks at an EU summit in Majorca with Mr. Major to try to steer a joint peace drive out of months of stalemate.

Irish officials said Mr. Bruton would try to persuade Mr. Major not to insist that the IRA, which fought for 25 years to end British rule, and loyalists, who waged war to maintain

it, make a token surrender of weapons to show good faith.

Britain says that both sets of guerrillas must agree in principle to disarm and then start handing over weapons in a verifiable way to get their spokesmen to the conference table.

But Irish officials said they would seek to get Mr. Major to drop his insistence on the guerrillas making any gesture but to accept that agreement in principle would mark major progress.

Loyalist guerrillas who killed 900 Catholics to cow the community from which the IRA draws support pointed the way last month when they issued a statement pledging they would not use their weapons first.

Irish officials believe a similar gesture from the IRA might ease the tension surrounding the peace

process which forced Ireland to abruptly cancel summit talks with Mr. Major this month.

Mr. Bruton and Mr. Major are expected to see if they can find enough common ground to set a new summit date to give the faltering peace process new impetus, Irish officials said.

Ireland seeks to launch a so-called twin-track approach, under which the issue of arms would be referred to an international commission while the two governments set a date for all-party talks without linkage to the arms deadlock.

Both hope there can be substantial progress before U.S. President Bill Clinton visits Ireland and Britain at the end of November to meet key players in the peace process.

Typhoon Ryan kills 4 in Taiwan, the Philippines

TAIPEI (R) — Typhoon Ryan killed four people and left damage in its wake Friday as it bore down on Taiwan after creating havoc in waters around the northern Philippines.

A police official in Taipei said one person died in the south of Taiwan but did not have further details. The typhoon cut electricity supplies to thousands of households and forced the evacuation of one harbour buffeted by fierce winds.

In the northern Philippines, three fishermen died when strong waves swamped their boats, relief officials said.

Nearly 2,500 people were forced to flee when strong waves smashed into their houses along the coast of

Ilocos Norte province, they added.

A Philippine Navy ship, the Badjao, with 54 crew members on board was also listing badly off Burgos town after waves and heavy rains battered the ship. The ship's tonnage and type was not immediately available.

Rescuers were trying to pluck the crew from the ship before it sank. The Badjao had just come from the northern islands of Batanes where it was delivering supplies when Ryan's fringe winds caught it in open water.

The ship's engines failed Thursday and it has been at the mercy of Ryan since, relief officials in Burgos said.

In Taiwan, people evacuat-

ed the small harbour settlement of Wu Kuai Chu on Taiwan's south-east coast, fearing that the pounding it is receiving from choppy seas might cause the harbour to fall into the sea, the police official said.

State radio reported that wind damage has cut electricity to more than 4,500 households in the central and southern parts of the island.

As of 10 a.m. (0200 GMT), the centre of Ryan was 80 kilometres southeast of the southern coastal town of Heng Chun. It was moving northeast at 25 kilometres per hour.

Most of the island's south-bound train lines have been cancelled for the day. Taiwan carrier Eva Airways

announced it was halting all its domestic flights, while China Airlines said it was cancelling several domestic and international flights.

Winds at Ryan's centre were howling at 160 kph (100 mph) with gusts of up to 198 kph (120 mph), the bureau said. Those speeds qualified it as a medium-strength typhoon.

Officials fear that Ryan may prove the most damaging typhoon to hit Taiwan since typhoon Wayne in 1986 left a swath of death and destruction in its wake.

Taipei's financial markets, government offices and schools were closed by government order late Thursday.

Nuclear test ban treaty seen as on course for 1996

GENEVA (R) — Agreement on a global treaty banning nuclear tests is attainable in 1996 and a consensus that it should cover nuclear explosions of all sizes is building, the chairman of the talks said Thursday.

The Geneva conference on disarmament, which sponsors the 38-nation negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty (CTBT), also took a first step towards admitting 23 new members, including Iraq, Israel, North Korea and Syria.

While diplomats welcomed the move as a breakthrough after years of deadlock, the actual date of accession was left open.

The forum also put off until Friday action on a proposal by the United States which would grant immediate membership to the 23 while carrying a caveat that a state under Security

Council sanctions would have no right to veto any conference decisions.

Diplomats said the U.S. proposal, aimed chiefly at Iraq which has been under sanctions since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990, would create a precedent and had little chance of success.

The limited breakthrough on membership was reached a day before the United Nations sponsored body wraps up its last 1995 session, although experts will hold technical talks in December.

Poland's Ambassador Ludwik Dembinski, chairman of the CTBT committee, submitted a revised draft treaty text which he said reflected "quite substantial" progress over the last months.

Differences remain over rules for inspecting members suspected of breaches, the makeup of the pact's

decision-making body and the date when it would enter into force, he added.

China and Russia have yet to join the other three declared nuclear weapon states (Britain, France and the United States) in their recent calls for the treaty to cover all nuclear explosions, the so-called "zero-yield threshold."

"Even though there is not yet a final agreement on the wording on scope (of the treaty) — not all the nuclear powers have expressed their points of view on this — there is clear convergence towards this zero-yield threshold," Mr. Dembinski told a news conference.

Asked whether an accord was possible sometime in 1996, he replied: "Yes, I think it is possible, but much effort and very hard work is required to achieve this aim. Time is short."

The Geneva disarmament body adopted a consensus

decision saying all 23 states would all assume membership "at the earliest possible date to be decided by the conference".

"It is a first step but an important one," said Nacer Benjelloun-Touimi, Morocco's ambassador who chairs the forum.

"Once you have an agreement, a consensus on something, then you have momentum for more agreements," added Mr. Benjelloun-Touimi, who noted that 12 other states have requests pending.

"We have told the 23 they will be a member but the question is when," said Mr. Benjelloun-Touimi, widely credited by diplomats for engineering the breakthrough in just several weeks.

The 23 countries, in a statement read by Chile, welcomed the move but regretted they had not been granted full membership.

Sri Lanka: Censorship to boost army morale

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka imposed censorship on military news Friday, saying the move targeted news reports that hinder its efforts to tame Tamil rebels or demoralises troops fighting them.

The government had noted that certain newspapers and electronic media had published military-related news in an irresponsible manner during the past few months, threatening the security of the state and the people, an official statement said.

"Distribution of military news will not only retard a settlement of the national crisis but also break the morale of the security forces," it said.

The statement accused unidentified "newspapers and media institutions" of failing to respond positively to an earlier government plea for care in reporting

military affairs.

"The government was reluctantly compelled to take this step," it added.

Edmond Jayasinghe, top civil servant at the Information Ministry, was named chief censor and will supervise a round-the-clock operation to clear all defence-related news for publication with the help of military officials.

Defence spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe told reporters the army would increase the frequency of its news bulletins, the only source allowed on military affairs without the censors' stamp.

Diplomats were divided whether the move presaged a widely expected army offensive on Jaffna, stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Media Minister Dhamasiri Senanayake told a

weekly cabinet news conference Thursday the imposition of censorship for the first time since 1989 was expected to be temporary.

Asked if the move was linked with the army's widely expected assault on the northern Jaffna peninsula, a rebel stronghold, Mr. Senanayake said: "I am not sure, I do not think so."

The announcement of the censorship followed impressive gains by the army against the LTTE Wednesday.

Brig. Munasinghe said troops killed 42 LTTE rebels in four battles, two of them in Jaffna, in what analysts said were major victories for the army.

Some analysts said the censorship followed newspaper reports of serious divisions within Mrs. Kumaratunga's government.

Western diplomats were

equally concerned for human rights groups campaigning to protect civilians in Jaffna, saying they were likely to be muzzled.

But Mr. Senanayake said he expected censorship would be temporary. "We are very liberal-minded people," he said. "The concept of a free media culture has not been abandoned by the government. I hope (the censorship) will be only temporary."

He said the move would be covered by emergency laws prevailing in Colombo and the troubled northeastern areas.

Sri Lanka's main opposition United National Party (UNP) said Mrs. Kumaratunga's government "should have sought the cooperation of the media on the matter, in keeping with its oft-professed dedication to media freedom."

Nepal's new government announces cabinet

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's new coalition government announced its cabinet Friday, naming as finance minister a liberal economist who was the architect of market-oriented reform in the Himalayan kingdom.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba brought into the cabinet 13 members of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), coalition partner of his Nepali Congress Party, and one from the Nepal Sadbhavana Party, which is also in the coalition, a royal palace communique said.

Congress, the biggest party in the coalition with 85 seats in the 205-member House of Representatives, provided 12 ministers, while Mr. Deuba kept seven portfolios to himself.

The key Finance Ministry went to Ram Sharan Mahara, the former vice chairman of Nepal's National Planning

Commission who drew up the economic reform programme introduced in Nepal in 1992 to attract new investment.

Mr. Deuba has said he will encourage private sector and foreign investment in Nepal's industrial development.

In one of its first policy papers, the new government announced Thursday it would introduce an open and transparent privatisation programme.

The Foreign Ministry went to Prakash Chandra Lohani, a member of the RPP who served as finance minister in the 1980s. The RPP has 19 seats in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Deuba, 49, was sworn in as prime minister by Nepal's King Birendra on Sept. 12, two days after the minority Communist government was thrown out in a no-confidence vote in the House of Representatives.

The vote followed a Supreme Court ruling that former Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari's decision in June to dissolve parliament and call mid-term elections was unconstitutional.

It said the opposition should have been given a chance to form a government.

Critics say the new government is unlikely to last long because of the differences between the three parties that make up the coalition.

The centrist Nepali Congress fought for 50 years to establish multi-party democracy in the kingdom.

The RPP is a monarchist party formed by powerful men in the previous "party-less democracy" system thrown out when the king agreed to reinstate political parties in the face of a pro-democracy movement

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On passports and the law

THE CONTROVERSY about passport rights cannot be expected to be settled equitably and permanently without resolving once and for all who is a Jordanian citizen and who is not. Once this issue of citizenship is determined, the right to have a passport valid for five years would be resolved automatically. The problem was created in the first place when Jordan decided in 1988 to sever all administrative and legal links with the West Bank. That step has been repeatedly interpreted by the government and by the Higher Court of Justice as ending the right of residents of the West Bank to apply for and receive a regular five-year passport. What emerged from this political and legal construction of citizenship rights is a rather fuzzy situation that transformed literally overnight a segment of Jordanian citizens into something in between. The principal shortcoming of this newly created regime on citizenship rights is the absence till this late hour of a law that would provide legal credence to this new policy. What adds to the complexity of this reconstruction is that any new legislation or amendment to an old law cannot have a retroactive effect. In theory, therefore, Jordanians who ceased to be regarded as Jordanians in the wake of the 1988 decision can challenge any ruling that took away their citizenship in a retroactive manner. This legal maze stresses the need to have the government and Parliament sit together and make some legal sense of the new rules on passport privileges and rights. Otherwise, the issue would remain with us with the door remaining wide open for legal challenges on both domestic and international levels.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily hailed Saudi Arabia's declared intentions of mending fences with Jordan, describing Saudi foreign minister's announcement of his plans to visit Jordan before the Gulf Cooperation Council meeting as a practical move towards opening a new chapter in his country's relations with the Kingdom. Indeed, the Saudi foreign minister's planned visit and an announcement that the Saudi ambassador will shortly return to his post in Amman mark a positive development which would pave the way for further improvement in relations between Jordan and the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer said that it would not be logical at all to see Israel establishing ties with the Arab states while these countries are in disarray and divided over petty issues and unable to solve any of their problems, added the writer. He said strong Saudi-Jordanian relations can help reestablish solidarity among the Arab countries. Furthermore, said the writer, the announcement by the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to attend the Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Amman next month adds further impetus to the ongoing efforts to improve relations among Arab countries, which, he said, ought to mobilise their political and economic potentials to strengthen the Arab Nation's stand in the new world order.

A WRITER in Al Dustour commented on the current Arab League council meeting in Cairo, which is discussing what is called the Arab code of honour, among other draft projects and said that such code remains meaningless as long as the Arab countries are in their current condition. Taber Adwan said that Jordan does not harbour support for such code in view of the divisions among the Arab countries, the sanctions on some of them and the hostile attitudes on the part of some Arab countries' leaders towards one another. The Gulf Cooperation Council states are in consensus over their joint enmity towards Iraq, which remains under the crippling effects of the U.N. sanctions; Algeria is riven with civil strife; Sudan is almost isolated in the Arab World due to alliances between Arab and non-Arab states against Khartoum; and the Palestinians remain hostage to Israel's whims and conspiracies while Libya departs the Palestinians who had helped build the country over the past decades. How can the Arab League endorse this Arab code of honour in the light of the present situation? Asked the writer. He said Jordan, which is wedged between besieged Iraq and the occupied Arab territories, does not feel it is right to approve such code which can by no means help restore solidarity between Arab countries.

Jordanian Perspective

Moving towards a Syrian-Israeli peace

IN THE run-up to next month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit, the apparent deadlock in the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese negotiations is disturbing in view of the reality that Syria and Lebanon will not be participating in the summit, which is easily described as a landmark for regional economic cooperation. It goes without saying that the full potential of regional economic cooperation cannot be realised without the participation of all parties in the region. The absence of Syria and Lebanon would be felt at the Oct. 29-31 conference in Amman.

A million different explanations could be offered as to why the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks of negotiations have not made a breakthrough nearly four years after the Middle East peace process was launched in Madrid.

We in Jordan would not want to advise the Syrian and Lebanese leaderships on how to exercise their political options. At the same time, the international reality today prompts us to point out that frank and open dialogue, taking in all aspects of a conflict, is the right avenue to pursue. Having said that, however, neither the facts of the conflict between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Israel nor the moves that Israel has to adopt to make real peace can be side-stepped. Israel has to completely dismantle its settlements on the Golan Heights, relinquish the strategic plateau to Syria and withdraw all its forces from its self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon and return the territory to Lebanese sovereignty. It is the Syrian and Lebanese rights to demand that no trace of Israeli presence or control is left behind in their territories at the end of the day. It might make sense for Israel to maintain ambiguity over the extent of withdrawal from the Golan — seeking a Syrian commitment to "total peace" — and attach conditions to relinquishing the "security zone" in Lebanon. But that does not make much sense to us simply because it is like pointing a gun at your enemy and insist that he start loving you.

What the layman on the street does not recognise or appreciate is simple and clear: The Golan is territory occupied in war and Israel should not attach any conditions for its return. If Syria does not want to deal with Israel as a neighbour — with all that it entails — that is Syria's choice and decision and Israel should respect it and leave Syria alone after securing international guarantees that Syria would not use the Golan militarily against the Jewish state.

If anything, the stated Israeli fears of the Golan being turned to a staging post for another war in the Middle East

even after making peace with Syria are unfounded. The regime in Syria is realistic and pragmatic to realise the consequences of war.

On the other hand, Damascus would be better off realising the essence of time. True that the status quo helps the Damascus regime to maintain a hardline stand and underline its "pan-Arab" principles and pride. But the reality cannot be overlooked that it may not be so opportune for a deal with Israel based on the restoration of the Golan to Syrian sovereignty once the election campaign starts in earnest in Israel and the United States next year.

It is only half true when Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak says that Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad cannot, and will not, be scared into making a deal. The other half is that the Syrian leader does not find any incentive to make peace at Israel's terms. Beyond that is the underlying political sentiment that making peace with Israel after all of Syria's demand are fulfilled might lead to an inevitable relaxation of the iron-grip the regime has on power in Damascus.

Despite the negativism that surrounds the Syrian-Israeli tracks, we cannot overlook that over the past two years the Damascus government has given every indication of preparing the Syrians for eventual peace with Israel. The Syrian countryside is dotted with suggestions of the rewards of peace but at Syria's terms. The net picture that emerges is a little confused at best. It seems that Syria wants peace, but it insists on what it sees as its own honour and dignity — by-words for continued assertions that Syria represents pan-Arabism and nationalism.

We in Jordan are aware, more than anyone else in the Arab World, of the importance of pan-Arabism and nationalism. We have made peace with Israel without making any concessions on our concept of respect for, and commitment to pan-Arabism and nationalism. We hope Syria recognises that peace is also made among the brave without losing face and it is only a matter of appreciating the international order as it stands today before the realisation dawns that peace can be made without sacrificing principles.

As to Israel, it is time that the leaders of the Jewish state realised that they simply cannot continue to talk from where they consider as a position of strength and come to terms with the fact that the Golan is Syrian and it has to be returned to Syria and that it is Syria's choice whether to accept Israel as a good neighbour after the two parties sign a peace treaty.

By Dr. Musa Keilani

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Israel must recognise that Hebron is an Arab city

By Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic dailies last week discussed the situation in Hebron in the occupied Arab territories. Libya's deportation of Palestinians among other issues.

WRITING in Al Ra'i daily, Sultan Al Hattab said that there is no logic in delaying the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement because 400 Jewish settlers in Hebron should not block the path of peace. The writer said that Hebron is an Arab city where 400 Jews live in the midst of more than 100,000 Arabs who rightly refuse the Jewish presence because this means a perpetuation of Israeli occupation. He said that the issue of Hebron should not be delayed until the final stage of the negotiations and the Arab countries should not remain passive and reluctant in supporting the Palestinian stand in this matter. The Palestinian negotiators need the support of the Arab countries and the world community in their right stand and in their struggle to secure the Palestinian people's rights.

ed the Libyan leadership for expelling the Palestinians, saying that it was stupid on the part of Mr. Qadhafi to believe that the Israelis would open the door for the deported Palestinians to return to their homeland.

By expelling the Palestinians, Mr. Qadhafi has aggravated the Palestinian people's sufferings and this action has backfired on the Libyans themselves, who are now condemned by the whole Arab Nation. In fact, Mr. Qadhafi has set a bad example for other Arab countries that could follow suit and deport the Palestinians, he said. The writer said that one should not blame other nations, which are conducting ethnic cleansing measures in Bosnia and Kashmir against the Muslims because Arabs and Muslims are themselves practising ethnic cleansing against their kinsmen.

It is regrettable to see the Arab World mistreating Palestinians, said Samir Qatani, a writer in Al Ra'i. What sin could have the Palestinian children and women committed against Libya to be treated in this shameful manner? asked the writer.

Criticising the Western countries, particularly the United States, for breaking their promises of providing Jordan with financial aid as a reward for concluding a peace treaty with Israel, a writer in Al Ra'i said that the Western states are instead offering to encourage their private sectors to embark on investments in Jordan.

Pretending that it is fighting a battle with the Congress in order to provide Jordan with a meagre financial assistance, the U.S. administration is trying to deceive the Kingdom into believing that it is the Congress which opposes supporting the Kingdom, said Fahed Al Fanek. While Washington provides more than \$5 billion in annual aid to Egypt and Israel for making peace, it is offering Jordan a trivial amount of \$7.5 million, he said.

We would be fooling ourselves if we believed that the Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Amman would secure the aspired investments because the private investors cannot come up with the required funds for our development and are not obliged to offer us assistance because foreign investors seek their own interests first. He said we should admit that Washington had let us down and it is taking us for granted as allies for free.

Samih Maaita, a writer in Al Sabeel, criticised the government for delaying the release of a group of Islamists from Muta University who had been accused of anti-state and sabotage activities, but were acquitted by court. Despite the lapse of six months since the verdict by the Court of Cassation acquitted the group, the government is still detaining them for no reason or justification, said the writer.

A writer in Al Dustour said that the Press and Publication Law is obsolete and no more suitable for the present day. Mohammad Daoud said that the country needs a new law that would deal with social and political and economic changes and developments and which is more capable of contributing to the work of researchers in culture and media affairs. The writer said that the press and publication department in advanced nations direct their attention to research and study and towards providing advice on the best means of ensuring cultural and social advancement. The department in Jordan, on the other hand, is restricting its work to issuing licences to newspapers, monitoring what is being published and imposing penalties on the violators of the law. Instead, he suggested, the Press and Publication Department ought to direct its attention towards contributing to the development process in the country.

Long live Saddam Hussein?

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — Which Arab leader would you say is most likely to remain in power longest? Well, if you were to answer that question on the basis of which Arab leader had the most colleagues rooting for him, the answer would be obvious: It would not be Hosni Mubarak, or King Hussein, or Yasser Arafat. It would be Saddam Hussein. That's right, Saddam Hussein may look as if he's in trouble, and he could fall tomorrow or in the year 2010. But whenever he goes, he sure of one thing: more leaders in the Middle East will put on a black tie and mourn his passing than for any of his colleagues.

This would be funny if it weren't so tragic while the Clinton administration is working and praying for Saddam's demise, most of his fellow rulers like him just the way he is. That is, strong enough to hold Iraq together, weak enough not to threaten his neighbours, emboldened enough not to be able to sell too much oil and caged enough not to be a factor in inter-Arab politics. That is a Saddam that serves a lot of people's interests, and the Clinton administration is fooling it-

self if it thinks otherwise.

To understand why, you first have to understand who are the likely alternatives to Saddam. Check the list. Thomas Jefferson's name is not on it. If Saddam is toppled, there are three likely alternatives. The first is no one. In this scenario the Iraqi state disintegrates into Kurdish, Shiite and Sunni pieces after Saddam's grip is broken. The second scenario is that Saddam will be succeeded by Saddam that is by another relative or army general equally nasty, because, some argue, the only way to keep Iraq united is by repressing Iraqis at home and threatening their neighbours abroad. The third possibility, the one the U.S. is counting on, is that a "nice" Saddam will come along — some enlightened Iraqi authoritarian, strong enough to hold Iraq together but nice enough to accommodate himself to the Arab-Israeli peace process, regional stability and Western economic interests.

But it is precisely a nice Saddam who would be most threatening to his neighbours. Just go down the list. The last thing Syria wants is a "nice" pro-American Iraq that is ready to join the Arab-Israeli peace process

ahead of Syria. An Iraq ready to reconcile with Israel only puts more pressure on Damascus to do the same. Syria's strategic nightmare is an Iraq that is on good terms with Israel and Jordan, leaving Syria isolated.

Egypt? The Egyptians still have not adjusted to the fact that they have lost their monopoly as the only Arabs with close ties to Israel, the U.S. and the Arab World. President Mubarak is already enraged at Jordan for usurping this unique Egyptian role. The last thing Egypt wants is a nice Iraq that returns to the Arab fold and joins Jordan as a competitor with Cairo for primacy in the Arab World.

Saudi Arabia? Get out your calculator. A nice Iraq is an Iraq no longer under U.N. embargo and that Iraq would immediately export one to two million barrels of oil a day, which the world market doesn't need. Oil experts say the day Iraq re-enters the world market, the price of oil drops from \$18 to \$14 a barrel. Saudi Arabia pumps eight million barrels a day. So a nice Saddam costs the Saudis \$32 million a day, or \$11.7 billion a year. Sorry, not "word" it. Especially since

opposing an evil Saddam gives Saudi Arabia an important role in U.S. military planning. As long as Saddam is a threat, the Saudis know that Washington will never put Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses under a spotlight.

Iran too loves Saddam. The last thing Iran wants is a nice Iraq, which then leaves Iran as the only bad boy in the neighbourhood, whose misbehaviour everyone will then focus upon.

And then there is something all these Middle East leaders have in common. They hate change: the disintegration of Iraq terrifies all of them because it raises the prospect of independent, irreverent Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish enclaves, each trying to connect with disaffected brethren in other countries. And democracy in Iraq, as unlikely as that might be, is equally terrifying because the last thing Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia want is a democratic Iraq that would highlight their own lack of glasnost.

Yes, Saddam is an evil man, but he's got so many people praying for him each night he could still end up going to heaven.

The Washington Post

A signal to Beijing about transition in Hong Kong

By Philip Bowring

HONG KONG — The results for directly elected seats (one-third of the total) in Hong Kong's Legislative Council are a resounding rejection of the party backed by Beijing, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong, or DAB, and of candidates who enjoyed its informal support.

Beijing, or factions there with their own agenda, may portray the election results as a victory for "anti-China" forces infected by Western liberal political theories that could spread across the border. But if wisdom prevails, China will see the ballot numbers for what they are: An expression of Hong Kong's desire for the autonomy promised to it in the Chinese-British Joint Declaration and China's Basic Law governing Hong Kong after the 1997 transfer of sovereignty.

The voters decisively rejected Beijing-backed candidates precisely because they were perceived not to be standing up for Hong Kong's interests.

Some of the DAB candidates had excellent records of public service and fight-

ing for rights other than to make money.

They scored highly in opinion polls for being honest, articulate and sincere. Many voters hoped that DAB success would make Beijing more tolerant of the democratic process. Yet even the party's leader, Tsang Yok-Sing, lost by a big margin.

Radio callers suggested that an election morning statement by Xinhua, China's representative organisation in Hong Kong, that the election would mean nothing anyway was a final nail in DAB hopes.

Beijing is now likely to make several claims to justify its already announced intention to replace this Legislative Council with one chosen through processes more to its liking. First it will point out that only 36 per cent of registered voters turned out. The "silent majority," it will claim, is not interested in this Western-style democracy. Beijing has half a point.

The election outcome is not out of line with opinion polls of majority views. Elections are new to Hong Kong. Some citizens saw the voting as a futile exercise, since China would do whatever it wanted anyway.

Others did not vote because the system is still so geared to sectional interests through the so-called "functional constituency" system that it scarcely merits the adjective "democratic."

But despite Beijing's attacks on the system, the DAB did contest, fighting hard. At least as far as Mr. Tsang was concerned, the party was gracious in defeat. The DAB realises that it lost not because of lack of grass-roots organisation, or because of poor candidates, but simply because of the taint of lack of independence.

Will it stay with the political process and try to make a better job of representing Hong Kong interests? Or will it abandon current politics and wait to be installed by the party bosses in Beijing as the "majority" party in Hong Kong?

The temptation in Beijing to "punish" Hong Kong for daring to display autonomy will be strong. But it will almost certainly be unwise. Despite the victory of the Democrats, Beijing has nothing much to fear from the new Legislative Council, where conservative and pro-Beijing forces are strongly represented by the

narrow-franchise "functional constituencies."

Secondly, the bloc of democrats is now sufficiently large and cohesive that any attempt to eliminate them from the political process will elicit sharp reaction from their strongest supporters — the middle-income groups.

One fact to stand out in voting patterns was the high voter turnout in upper middle-income areas. These are the people with some money and foreign passports who will vote with their feet and move to Canada, the United States or elsewhere if their elected representatives in Hong Kong are to be treated as treasonous.

In the back of their minds, some of the party bosses in Beijing may want just that — to see the back of those Hong Kongers most infected with foreign and bourgeois liberal tendencies. But if Beijing wants a smooth transition, it will accept that the election was an accurate enough reflection of what Hong Kong wants and currently thinks about Beijing's local acolytes.

International Herald Tribune

Brewing a novelty in the West Bank

By Ethan Bronner

TAYBEH, Israeli-Occupied West Bank — The Palestinian newspapers will not write about him, will not even accept his ads, for fear of retaliation from Islamic militants. The Israeli military authorities who granted a licence thought he was off his rocker. But a man with a dream presses on.

Nadim Khoury, a 36-year-old father of four who spent most of the last 15 years in Brookline, returned to this village in the stunning hills above Jericho, pulled together \$1 million from relatives and launched the first Palestinian beer brewery in history.

You might well ask: What kind of a businessman stakes his future on an alcoholic beverage in a society that is 95 per cent Muslim? Mr. Khoury, who is Christian and still co-owns Foley's Liquors in Brookline with his brother, said plenty of beer is drunk in the West Bank. Millions of bottles a year are consumed there, he said, nearly all of it Israeli.

Mr. Khoury suggested that his success will be a sign that the emerging autonomous entity in Gaza

and the West Bank has a future as a modern, pluralistic state. "This has been my dream for years. Right now we are depending mostly on word of mouth," Mr. Khoury said, stainless-steel gleaming around him, as he walked the 10,000-square-foot brewery that he built from scratch on family land over the past year.

"I've had some posters printed. I'm working on the possibility of billboards. Yasser Arafat has given us his blessing. Palestinians will take great pride in their first beer. And tourists always like to try the local brew, so I'm convinced we have a bright future."

For the past month, the ancient terraced Samaritan hills of this village 15 miles northeast of Jerusalem have been filled with the peculiar and pungent odor of yeast and hops and malted barley as the brewery has begun its work in earnest. Three days a week, they brew; two days a week, they bottle. At the moment, they produce 3,000 bottles an hour.

Taybeh beer is named after its hometown, an Arabic word that means good or fine but also delicious. And it is no ordinary commercial beer. Heavily

influenced by the micro-brewery boom in the United States, Mr. Khoury is producing an all natural beer in the Samuel Adams mode.

And a man who has clearly read plenty of American menus and labels describing such things as "farm fresh eggs" is pushing his product as "the fresh, flavourful alternative to imported beers."

He has imported all the equipment and materials from Europe and the United States and even a chief brewer, Mark Hamon, 29. An MIT graduate with experience from both Cambridge Brewing and Commonwealth Brewing in Boston, Mr. Hamon has been here since November, setting things up and training the locals in such key terms as wort (the clarified liquid containing malted barley sugar) and sparging (leeching water through the grains to collect sugars).

On many days, the blond, boyish looking Hamon, who is studying Arabic, can be seen in his Bugle Boy khakis twisting valves, pouring hops and fussing over his brew. "It's a craft," Mr. Hamon said, "a safe way for a man to get into the kitchen."

Mr. Khoury has come up with a motto he hopes is evocative of a larger political struggle. His posters demand rather cryptically and yet somehow familiarly: "Drink locally, think globally."

He said his beer is, as its label declares, "the best in the Middle East," which may be true, but is a modest distinction in a region where only a handful of countries brew their own.

Taybeh is less fizzy and a touch more bitter than the beers typically drunk around here, and it might take some time to get used to it.

This, in any case, is the view of Khader Yusuf, head waiter at the Jerusalem Hotel across from the walled Old City. On a recent late afternoon, Yusuf, who does not drink because he is Muslim, said tourists are enthusiastic about Taybeh because it is local, but that is not necessarily true of Palestinians.

"Mostly, the Arabs say it needs more gas," the 34-year-old said in the hotel's garden pub, a poster of Taybeh Beer plastered on a fire tree nearby. "Some say it's soft. The tourists like it however. For a long time,

tourists have been asking if we have a local beer. I'm proud now to say we do."

A customer, Jennifer Moorehead, 27, of Grand Rapids, Mich., said she prefers it to Israeli beer. "It's a bit malty," she said, "but it's new, lighter, like the Grand Rapids Brewing Co. back home."

Mr. Khoury is doing the marketing himself. Portable phone in his pocket, he drives around Jerusalem and the West Bank to hotels, restaurants and minimarkets persuading owners to buy a few cases and take pride in a local product. So far, it has gone pretty well. He said he has received no threats from Muslim militants.

Bassil Freij, of the Freij minimarket in East Jerusalem, said he bought 10 cases two weeks ago and has sold half of them already, despite the fact that Taybeh is about 30 per cent more expensive than the main Israeli brand, Maccabee.

Mr. Khoury, who attended Hellenic College in Brookline, as did his brother David, 39, said that it was while working in liquor

stores that he started home-brewing beer. He began dreaming about building a brewery in Taybeh, where his family has lived for 450 years. David, who is still managing Foley's in Brookline, is expected back soon.

One measure of their success will be if they can market their beer in Israel. They have not really tried, except in the Arab town of Nazareth, where much interest was expressed.

Their father, Canaan Khoury, a businessman, is thrilled that his sons and families are coming home. They are a prominent clan in this Christian village of 1,300 and, as much as he loves Boston — his daughter, Butina, went to Massachusetts College of Art, and even his father, the former Orthodox priest of the village, visited Boston before World War II — he would have been heartbroken to lose his boys to it permanently.

As Nadim said as he looked out over the Samaritan hills, "I miss Boston. But there is nothing like coming home." — The Boston Globe.

Turkmen ends Jordan visit

(Continued from page 12)

have always worked to make this integration a reality of our lives," Prince Hassan said at the ceremony, which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Japanese Ambassador to Amman Takayuki Kimura, whose country financed the building of the school.

Prince Hassan recalled the effort that Jordan exerted in cooperation with UNRWA to alleviate the plight of the refugees and the displaced people.

Noting the progress that Baqaa witnessed since 1968, he said Jordan's determination was successful in providing comfort to Palestinians in the camps.

The Prince noted that while 40 per cent of the agency's operations are in Jordan, UNRWA spends only 20 per cent of its expenditure in the Kingdom.

Addressing the situation of Educational Sciences Faculty, which UNRWA had decided to close but then postponed the closure for one year, Prince Hassan said he hoped that UNRWA would find an international donor to finance the continuation of the college's operation. He said Jordan will support the agency in this endeavour.

UNRWA had decided to shut down the faculty for budgetary constraints but then reversed its decision after consultations with the government and the Palestinian National Authority.

"UNRWA and the United

Nations' responsibilities in the framework of education should not be restricted to the continuation of providing services as well as social and psychological security to UNRWA workers, but should go beyond that to include the improvement and the development of the teachers' situation," Prince Hassan said.

Addressing the ceremony, Mr. Turkmen reviewed the progress achieved by the agency's schools since 1968, noting that special donations UNRWA received in 1985 enabled it to build its first cement school in Baqaa camp.

He said that UNRWA was building another school in the camp and once this project was completed, the agency would have gotten rid of all its prefabricated buildings in order to provide students with a better learning environment.

Mr. Turkmen added that the school in Baqaa camp provides a special programme for hearing-impaired students and that UNRWA will establish a special education centre for students with learning difficulties.

Ambassador Kimura, whose country donated the \$78,000 spent on the school, said that Japan believes that supporting the education process will build a new era of peace and prosperity.

The Baqaa camp school for girls is the second school to be funded by Japan after a boys' school in Jerash camp.

Tempers flare as secession campaign intensifies

By David Crary
The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Somehow, it's all very Canadian: a war of secession in which name-calling substitutes for violence. But civility is under strain as Quebec heads for an independence referendum in six weeks.

Quebec separatists were supposed to be floundering by now, according to the political wisdom that prevailed earlier this year in the rest of Canada. Instead, opinion polls show a virtual dead heat as 4.9 million Quebec voters — about 82 per cent of them French-speaking — prepare to cast ballots Oct. 30.

"For this first time, English-speaking Canada is realising the 'yes' side could win," said Monique Simard, a top-ranking organiser of the independence campaign. "The 'no' side had been very confident, and suddenly they're realising that every vote counts."

What had been a wearisome constitutional debate grows more passionate by the day. Dramatic "oui"

and "non" billboards plead for votes, allegations of racism and treason multiply. The Canadian dollar plummets in response to rumours of separatist gains.

Even the sports world is affected. Manitoba native Mike Keane, newly installed captain of the Montreal Canadiens, kindled a firestorm of outrage when he casually remarked that he had no need to learn French because his hockey teammates — mostly "Francophones" — speak English.

For decades, French Quebecers have nursed frustrations and struggled with divided loyalties. Most have some fondness for Canada, yet feel themselves victims of broken promises by English-speakers who never fully acknowledged Quebec's distinctive nationhood rooted in its beginnings as a colony founded by France.

Canadians and Quebecers don't live very close to each other, geographically or psychically, said Desmond Morton, director of the Institute for Canadian Studies at McGill University. "People here don't hold the same political

values; they don't get the same political messages."

To Canadians elsewhere, the common feeling is that Quebec already has benefited from special treatment, notably federal permission to impose French as the province's sole official language. Jean-Marc Leger, head of a Montreal polling firm, says 80 per cent of Canadians outside Quebec think the province deserves no special treatment.

Within Quebec's French community, however, there is virtual unanimity that the province merits a unique status. The split is over whether to seek this special status as part of Canada or as a sovereign nation.

"What we're seeking is the power to continue to exist," Ms. Simard said at the 'yes' campaign headquarters in Montreal. "It's hard for a majority group on this continent to understand. Without sovereignty, we're doomed to be an eternal minority, or to disappear."

The federal government, headed by Quebec-born Prime Minister Jean Chretien, insists the separatists

will lose. Mr. Chretien, fond of citing surveys ranking Canada as the world's most livable nation, asks why anyone would want to leave and refuses to speculate publicly about the consequences of a "yes" victory.

The consequences would likely be shattering. Mr. Chretien would face pressure to resign, and Canada would be forced into awkward negotiations with Quebec over such troublesome issues as sharing the national debt and rearranging internal trade.

"Voting 'yes' is a risky adventure that will bring economic upheaval," said Daniel Johnson, leader of the Quebec branch of Mr. Chretien's Liberal Party. He contends separatism would saddle Quebecers with higher mortgage and car payments.

Mr. Johnson also accused the separatists of a botched dirty trick, leaking a phony document purporting to suggest that the liberals want to reinstate English as an official language in Quebec.

Some anti-separatist rhetoric is much harsher.

"It's time for people who love this country to stand up and expose separatists for what they are — traitors who will stoop to any level to get their way," said an editorial in the Timmons Press, an Ontario daily.

Ms. Simard said she is well aware of the exasperation of English-speaking Canadians, many of whom resent Canada's bilingual policies.

"They ask why they should pay to have French on their coin flakes box in the morning. For them, it's a nuisance," she said. "There is a profound ignorance about what Quebec is all about."

While separatists represent a majority of French Quebecers, they could lose the referendum because of overwhelming opposition to independence among the province's English-speakers and "Allophones" — immigrants whose first language is not French. Of Quebec's 7 million people — almost one-fourth of Canada's population — about 18 per cent are not French.

There are worries that immigrants may face recr-

mination if the "yes" side narrowly loses the referendum.

One minority group is not waiting until Oct. 30 to speak out. Quebec's 7,000 Inuits — formerly known as Eskimos — plan their own referendum four days earlier with the avowed intention of rejecting separatism. The Inuits have threatened a secession of their own if forced into an independent Quebec.

At McGill — bastion of Montreal's English-speaking community — Mr. Morton dreads a break-up of Canada.

"It would be ever so sad," he said. "It humiliates us in the eyes of the world. It messes up not too bad a country."

But among separatists, many of them veterans of a losing referendum campaign in 1980, there is a sense of exhilaration.

"Very seldom in history do people have the opportunity to decide in a democratic and peaceful way if they want their own country," Ms. Simard said. "It's the most important political decision they will ever take."

Bosnia front stabilises

(Continued from page 1)

ly correspond to the (international) peace plan but some land will have to be handed back," Mr. Milutinovic said.

The peace plan worked out by the contact group gives 49 per cent of Bosnia territory to a self-proclaimed Serb republic and 51 per cent in the Croat-Muslim federation, which now holds about 50 per cent of the country.

Mr. Milutinovic denied suggestions there had been a secret deal between Belgrade and Zagreb, with or without Sarajevo's knowledge, to allow forces of the Croat-Muslim federation to seize territory.

"The rest (of the issues to settle) do not present any great difficulty. It depends on the other side, in particular the Muslims," he said.

If the principle of a division of territory was respected, he said, "there will not be any problem. Of course the future of some villages will have to be settled, but not of any key points."

Mr. Milutinovic warned that current bloodshed would seem like mere "bombs and arrows" if Serbia were sucked into the war.

"At the moment we are very close to peace. We can reach peace very fast, practically tomorrow," Mr. Milutinovic said.

"There are many who would really like to see Serbia in this war. As far as we are concerned, if the call is

made it would no longer be a war of bows and arrows — I am speaking figuratively — all means would be used," he said. "And this war would not end quickly."

A senior Russian diplomat was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying Russia will veto any possible replacement of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia with a NATO force that would enforce a peace settlement.

Moscow will not hesitate to use its right of veto as it opposes the "transfer of the (U.N.) mandate to a force entirely made up of NATO forces," the diplomat said under cover of anonymity.

Russia is in favour, however, of replacing the U.N. peacekeepers with a multi-national force mandated by the U.N. Security Council, the diplomat added.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Monday he planned to recommend that the United Nations replace its peacekeepers in the devastated former Yugoslav republic with a multi-national force for political, strategic and financial reasons.

NATO has said it wants the future force to comprise mostly U.S., British and French troops with Russian and Ukrainian contingents as well as units from Muslim nations, but Moscow has ruled out putting its troops under NATO command.

Kabariti reports on his contacts in Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

part in the Barcelona summit, which, he said, will come up with a declaration of principles on political, security, economic, financial and social relations between the members of the European Union and non-EU countries of the Mediterranean region.

He noted that Israel will be part of this regional partnership.

Answering a question on the reservations by some Arab parties on Jordan's regional role, Mr. Kabariti said: "Jordan is not a country that is measured by its size or by its population. It considers itself as a cause and message and insists on playing its full role."

"It does not and will not accept any belittling of its role," he added.

Mr. Kabariti told reporters in Cairo on Thursday that critics of Jordan's Iraqi policy were operating double standards.

"We don't understand how it can be said that accepting (Iraqi defector) Hussein Kamel is interference in Iraqi affairs while it is not said that accepting Samarra and Mohammad Baqer Al Hakim in other Arab countries is interference in Iraqi affairs."

Major General Wafiq Al Samarra is an Iraqi intelligence chief who defected last year and has since spent time in Syria. Sheikh Hakim, head of the mainly Shi'ite Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, has met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

"There is a kind of hypocrisy and duplicity in the political dialogue," Mr. Kabariti added.

The Arab League Council meeting ended late Thurs-

day, failing to agree on adoption of a peace pledge to avoid future inter-Arab conflicts.

"Because of remarks from several Arab countries, the ministers have postponed until their next session due in March, the adoption of a draft pact of honour on Arab security and cooperation," Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak first proposed the pact in March which aims to prevent regional crises such as the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and set up an Arab court of justice to rule on disputes.

Before the 22 Arab League members opened talks in the Egyptian capital on Wednesday, there had been hopes that after three months of debate the draft pledge would finally be adopted.

Egypt pushed ministers to adopt the pledge draft, but Syria and Iraq insisted it must be first submitted to a summit of Arab leaders.

Arab heads of state have not met since just after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and Dr. Abdul Meguid said holding another one "at this time seems impossible and risks aborting the project."

But several ministers refused to see the postponement as a failure.

"It is in the interests of the Arab Nation to study more closely this draft in order to guarantee a joint commitment to respect it," said Mr. Sharaa of Syria.

The Arab Maghreb Union also put forward an annex to the draft calling for a crisis prevention mechanism simi-

lar to one adopted by the Organisation of African Unity.

Mr. Sharaa attacked the MENA summit, saying the main beneficiaries would be Israelis.

Syria refuses to take part in the multilateral track of Middle East peace talks, saying they give Israel the reward of regional recognition before it has returned Arab land.

Arab diplomats said Egypt was lukewarm about the Amman summit because it is not in Cairo.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa echoed Arab concerns about Israeli economic penetration when he told reporters he could not accept a Middle East market in which only one side benefited.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammad Taha, whose country is hardly on speaking terms with Egypt, came to Cairo seeking reconciliation but Egypt gave him a cold shoulder.

Egypt said Sudan helped the men who tried to kill President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June. Sudan denies it.

The Palestinians won a slight concession from Lebanon which agreed to let back into the country those visiting relatives in Libya when a wave of expulsions started at the beginning of the month.

But Dr. Abdul Meguid said Beirut was still refusing to lift visa restrictions on others, even those with Lebanese travel documents, hit by a Libyan decision to throw out 30,000 Palestinian residents.

Iran urges army to be alert

(Continued from page 1)

The emphasis in the parade was on "popular" forces, which Iranian leaders have relied on heavily in domestic and foreign conflicts.

A large number of the volunteer Islamic militiamen, the Basij, were deployed in the parade. They are usually reserved for anniversaries of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The workers' militia was also present in the march, in which dozens of armoured vehicles, missiles and artillery pieces were displayed. Trucks carried speedboats manned by naval units, but the air force was absent.

During a parade in April to mark the 16th anniversary of the revolution, a plane crashed in a busy district of Tehran, killing or wounding several people.

The parade through the square festooned with giant portraits of the late Ayatollah

Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic republic, marked the day that Iran says Iraq invaded in 1980.

In the parade, one of the biggest seen in Tehran in recent years, the military displayed Soviet-era T-62 and T-55 tanks, many of them captured from Iraq during the war. Iranian-built eagle missiles, mobile radar systems and 155-mm artillery as warplanes roared overhead.

At 2:15 p.m. (10:45 GMT), the precise time that the Iran says invasion began, the radio broadcast a recording of the air raid siren that warned Iranians of the war 15 years ago.

Thousands of Iranians, who thronged streets leading to the square, watched a sky-diving display and were showered with flowers scattered by army helicopters.

U.S. supports

(Continued from page 2)

Amnesty said "the organisation considers these courageous first steps — away from the traditional policy of blanket denial — to be a positive sign."

The Turkish government had no immediate comment on Amnesty's report.

The organisation said a new report shows the number of deaths in custody in Turkey as a result of torture, as well as those due to "disappearances" and political killings show some reduction "in the first eight months of 1992, although they are still high."

The report also describes continued abuses by armed opposition groups including alleged killings of prisoners and civilians by the Kurdish Labour Party and punishment killings by the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front.

The European Parliament is holding up approval of a customs union because of alleged human rights abuses in Turkey, including imprisonment of political opponents and torture.

Many of the alleged incidents are linked to the army's battle against Kurdish separatist guerrillas and their civilian supporters.

U.S. lawyers urge Egypt to halt attacks on human rights work

NICOSIA (AFP) — A U.S. lawyers group called here Friday on the Egyptian government to halt its attacks on human rights work, warning that only extremists stood to benefit from a crackdown.

"By weakening the NGO (non-governmental organisations) sector, the government is smoothing the path for demagogues and extremists," said Neil Hicks, Middle East coordinator of the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights.

"The government has responded to the threat of armed attacks by Islamic extremists by placing substantial restrictions on many forms of political participation and on the independence of NGOs," the New York-based group said.

The group, which was barred from holding a video workshop in Cairo in May in violation of the Egyptian Human Rights Organisation (EHRO), said harassment was counterproductive.

EHRO Secretary General Negad Al Borai, attending the rescheduled two-day workshop on the use of video technology in the Cypriot capital, warned of a worsening crackdown after elections

scheduled in November.

"I think we will have a very big problem after the next election," he said.

"Now civilians are being sent to military courts," said Mr. Borai, referring to the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist group. "I fear the next step is against human rights groups."

He said that "many of our members are now afraid. Now they are arresting our members, our lawyers."

Mr. Borai pointed out that the EHRO had no legal status as protection. "We have a de facto situation, not a legal one. The Egyptian government refuses to register us. This is a big problem."

The authorities have also withdrawn their authorisation for EHRO reports to be sold on the market, restricting release of publications to being sent out by post, he said.

Rights workers from Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco, a Palestinian and a Sudanese exile were taking part in the "Witness Training Programme," run by the lawyers' committee backed by the Reebok Foundation and rock musician Peter Gabriel.

Jordan looks to Mideast summit for peace dividend

By Jack Redden
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan is drawing up wish lists of development projects and reserving every hotel room for a Middle East economic summit at the end of October in its biggest pitch yet for the elusive peace dividend.

"Peace cannot last without concrete benefits," Joan Spero, a U.S. undersecretary of state, said on one of a flood of visits by foreign officials in advance of the three-day summit.

Despite doubts about the results of the Middle East and North Africa summit, a last-minute push for key legislation and a flurry of publicity is boosting Jordan's hopes.

After a year of tortuous movement through the legislative process, parliament this month passed a law on foreign investment — essen-

tial for attracting foreign capital.

The law, so overdue a text for use at the summit had to go to the printer before it was passed, in effect removing a former 49 per cent ceiling on foreign ownership in companies.

That came at an opportune time for five U.S. ambassadors to Middle East countries touring the United States to stir investor interest, a demonstration of Washington's desire to help Jordan and its own businesses.

An annual report on world economies also seemed aimed at the summit. Its survey included three key summit participants for the first time. Israel ranked 23rd, Egypt 27th and Jordan 41st.

The report came from the Lausanne International Institute for Management Development and the Geneva-based World Economic Forum — which happens also to be organising the Amman

summit.

Despite this, diplomats and businessmen have doubts about what will be accomplished in the Oct. 29-31 summit, a follow-up to the largely political Casablanca summit a year ago.

Efforts by some organisers to discourage talk of imminent "deals" reflects fears of further discouraging Jordanians who expected quick rewards for ending a 46-year state of belligerence with Israel last year.

"People are not going to come with their cheque books," said one diplomat.

That could disappoint Jordanians and other participants drawing up long lists of projects they hope someone will agree to finance, either as aid or for profit.

There is a Jordanian government list of 27 projects, assembled with Canadian guidance, that are regarded as among the most likely to

attract foreign interest.

That will be supplemented by a government list of about 200 private sector projects, a list about the same size drawn up directly by the private sector, and the Jordan Rift Valley list that includes items such as a multi-billion dollar scheme for a canal linking the Red Sea and the Dead Sea.

Other countries will likely bring their own lists. Israeli, Jordanian, Egyptian and Palestinian officials discussed 10 regional projects this month, including a \$100 million road from Egypt across the Gaza Strip to the Israeli port of Ashdod.

Jordanian officials privately concede no negotiations are in progress on proposed projects, some of which have been mooted since the Casablanca meeting a year ago.

"They should have gone on the road to London, New York and other financial cen-

tres with these projects," said a diplomat. "You have to market this country like a business."

While the signing of contracts for projects looks unlikely, organisers sound determined to unveil a Middle East development bank.

But a formal announcement could leave fundamental questions on structure, lending policy and membership unresolved.

Months of negotiations in capitals around the world have failed to solve a basic problem: Israel, the United States, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians want a bank — almost everyone else is indifferent, sceptical, or opposed.

The European Union has been prominent in opposition, saying there are adequate lending bodies now without creating a new bureaucracy. It proposed a smaller body to link those needing

assistance with the appropriate agency.

Jordan, its hopes of hosting the proposed \$5 billion capital bank blocked by a U.S. agreement to put it in Egypt, has proposed both a bank in Cairo and the smaller body in Amman. That, other backers of the bank fear, could end up killing the entire idea.

Even among bank supporters there are key differences. Egyptians, Palestinians and Jordanians want some money on easy terms. Washington demands all lending be at commercial rates.

"Having another institution will not actually do much if we don't have the projects that you can ask them to finance," Wasef Azar, managing director of Amman's Business Bank, told Reuters in dismissing the preoccupation with the bank.

"I'm not aware of any positive or viable or commercially feasible project that did not

find financial requirements," he said. "Financing for any good project is always available from anywhere in the world."

Some among the more than 1,000 guests expected at the summit — government and company representatives — may be disappointed the Middle East has not changed as much as they expected in the two years since Israel and the Palestinians signed their framework for peace.

But the description of those anxious not to repeat the inflated expectations of the past — often fed by leaders anxious to promote unpopular policies — is that the Amman summit is only part of a lengthy, difficult process.

"The success of the summit will be measured by how well these people interact, get ideas on the table and follow up," said one foreign organiser. "We can't make them sign deals."

France puts austerity first in 1996 budget

PARIS (R) — The French government has approved an austere 1996 budget which will impose tough curbs on public spending in a drive to cut the public sector deficit and meet the conditions for European monetary union.

Finance Minister Jean Arthuis said the budget deficit would be cut by 10 per cent to just under 290 billion francs (\$56.9 billion) from 322 billion francs (\$63.1 billion) this year.

The aim is to bring France's public finances into line with those of Germany, allowing the two to spearhead a drive for a single European currency before the end of the century.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe told parliamentarians from his centre-right coalition that the deficit cuts should make possible a continued fall in French interest rates.

Mr. Juppe also set the bold objective of slashing the deficit of France's social security system, which funds public health care and basic retirement pensions, to zero in 1997 from a projected 60 billion francs (\$11.8 billion).

The Social Security Fund, managed by employers and trade unions, is separate from the central government budget.

The 1996 budget sets the seal on a policy established in a mini-budget in June in which the government appointed by newly elected President Jacques Chirac gave priority to promoting job creation and cutting the deficit over tax cuts.

The government has already raised value added tax by two points to 20.6 per cent and Mr. Juppe said a tax reform to be introduced next year would widen the net of earnings subject to income tax and the CSG welfare tax.

Jordan, U.S. plan investment treaty

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United States and Jordan plan to enter a bilateral investment agreement and update Jordan's laws on intellectual property rights, according to American and Jordanian officials.

The move is part of the Clinton administration's efforts to help Jordan after it signed a peace treaty with Israel in October 1994.

Washington and Amman are also expected to negotiate a separate trade agreement under which Jordanian products will enjoy preferential treatment in the U.S. market and Amman will provide reciprocal status of selected American products.

Jan Kalicki, a counsellor at the Department of Commerce, asserted that the administration was finding it difficult to extend outright financial aid to Jordan as it did for Egypt when Cairo signed the Camp David peace accord with Israel, and investment and trade agreements were the alternatives that should benefit Jordan much better in the long-term.

"The era of high infusions of aid is gone," Mr. Kalicki said at a roundtable with Jordanian economic analysts and journalists after talks with Jordanian officials on preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman next month.

He said Washington was

putting the onus on the American private sector to help Jordan develop economically through investments in commercial ventures as well as infrastructure services in the Kingdom.

He said the Commerce Department and the Jordanian government planned to enter a bilateral investment treaty, and special protection for American intellectual property rights in the Kingdom.

He would not elaborate except that he expected the final drafts of the agreements to be ready after the Oct. 29-31 MENA summit.

Jordanian officials said the U.S. was seeking simplified bureaucracy and licensing, higher incentives and tax breaks for American capital in Jordan. "They also want stronger intellectual property laws and strict enforcement of the laws in Jordan," said an official, who, like others who confirmed the proposed agreement, did not want to be identified.

Jordan does not have strong laws that protect intellectual property rights, and a draft legislation expected to be taken up by Parliament before the end of the year is described by experts as falling short of the minimum level of internationally-accepted protection.

Officials at the ministries of planning, finance and trade and industry said Jordan should not find it difficult to extend the kind of protection sought by the U.S., given that there is a rising awareness in the Kingdom of

that foreign investment is closely tied with laws to protect copyrights, trade marks and patents and intellectual property rights.

They also noted that Jordan has applied to join the World Trade Organisation, which stipulates strong protectionist measures for intellectual property rights among other things.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown pointedly told Jordanian officials in his two visits here in 1994 and 1995 that Jordan needed to update its investment laws, relax customs barriers and offer high protection to intellectual property rights if it were to expect foreign investment.

The Jordanian Parliament this month endorsed an updated law on investment, offering high incentives and protection for foreign capital. A new companies law is also in the making.

The undertakings in the proposed Jordan-U.S. agreements will clear the way for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), an arm of the U.S. government, to extend partial capital as well as risk insurance for capital to American companies investing in Jordan in strictly private sector ventures.

OPIC will give 25 per cent of the total capital to any private sector venture in which a U.S. firm holds 51 per cent of the equity. It will also provide insurance for up to 50 per cent of the U.S. equity against most

government-oriented risks, including appropriation by the state and non-conformity of currency.

Mr. Kalicki and Judith Barnett, senior advisor at the Commerce Department, told reporters they found keen interest among American businesses to attend the MENA summit in Amman.

Coupled with Jordan giving high incentives and protection for American capital and rights, they said, the Kingdom should be in a strong position to attract investments from American firms.

John Walker, another senior Commerce Department official, said he had been attending regular meetings in the U.S. on the MENA summit and had found very high interest among American businesses to explore the opportunities available in Jordan.

The number of firms wishing to attend the conference was so high that the Department of Commerce is under pressure to adopt a selective approach, given Jordan's logistic limitations, the U.S. officials said.

Dollar down but not out, Tokyo dealers say

TOKYO (R) — The dollar's dramatic overnight plunge, which briefly took it more than seven yen from a 15-month high at only days earlier, may appear dire, but was actually a natural if exaggerated correction, dealers said.

But while dealers foresee lasting gains in the longer term, they say the short term will be volatile and unpredictable.

"The dollar was basically forced up artificially, so there will be a fairly substantial correction. But if you consider the longer term, it will rise," Noriyuki Mizukami, chief dealer at Dresdner Bank A.G. in Tokyo, said Friday.

The dollar had partly recovered by Tokyo midday from its overnight fall, which saw it plumb the depths at 97.10 yen. It had touched 104.70 yen in both New York and Tokyo earlier this week, its highest level since June 1994.

More ominous, dealers said, was the greenback's

continuing weakness against European currencies, particularly the mark and the Swiss franc. It hit a one-month low of 1.4090 marks and touched 1.1300 Swiss francs, its weakest against that currency since April. Its low against the yen was 79.75 yen on April 19.

Massive bank of Japan (BOJ) intervention in early Friday trade, and supportive comments by U.S. and Japanese officials, helped the dollar recover slightly. It stood at 100.57 yen, 1.4235 marks and 1.1373 Swiss francs as of 0510 GMT.

Although many in the market have said one of the main causes for the dollar's slide were concerns about European monetary unity, touched off by German Finance Minister Theo Waigel saying Italy would not qualify

as a member of a European single currency at the initial stage, others disagreed.

"Actually, the market has risen for nearly three months without a correction, meaning that it was loaded with long positions that it had to shed sometime in order to rise further. The Waigel comment was only an excuse," said Manabu Nakagawa, investment banking director at Bank of Nova Scotia.

He acknowledged that the BOJ's intervention seemed to have halted the dollar's slide for now, it added that little could be predicted until European and the New York trade began.

"You can definitely see the government's support for the dollar from today's intervention, but boosting the dollar

(Continued on page 9)

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your head is filled with ideas for the days ahead which can bring you greater success and later today you can make a definite plan.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Talk over with your family ties just what they would like to accomplish today and then take time for amusements with close friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Carry through with regular routines in outside world today, then try to meet the needs of kin. Take time to visit the sick.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do whatever will add to the value of your possessions and property and later study periodicals for more ideas.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your ideas are excellent this morning, so carry through with them and tonight you can handle worldly affairs well.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You see this morning how to expand your talents so that you gain more later today, so come to right decisions.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Contact as many good friends as you can and make dates when it is best to see them today, then devote yourself to the one you love.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get those outside duties handled early this morning, then after lunch you get good results with personal affairs.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan how to make your dreams materialise for today later this morning. Later this evening, get great results in practical matters.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Follow your hunches and they can bring good results in whatever means the most to you. Get shopping completed early today.

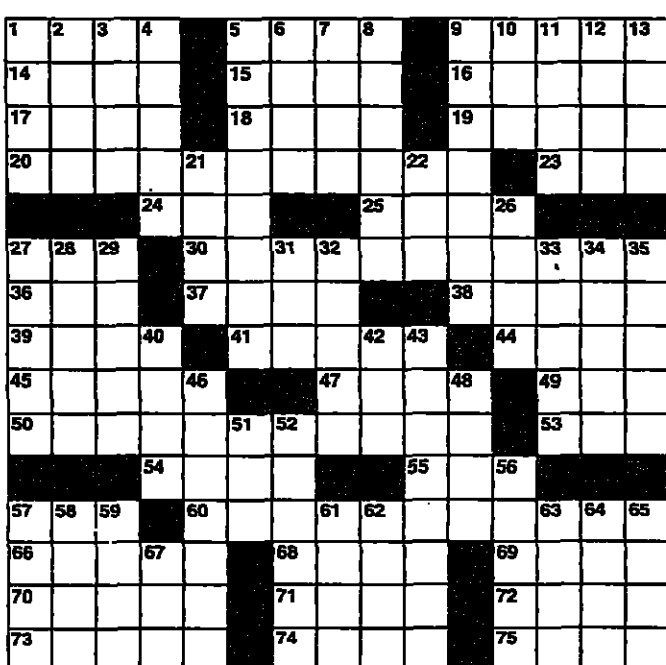
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Being with friends who are known for their generosity is good this morning. Then do what they have suggested later today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This morning is best spent planning for today. Later tonight, you can gain the cooperation of your associates.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

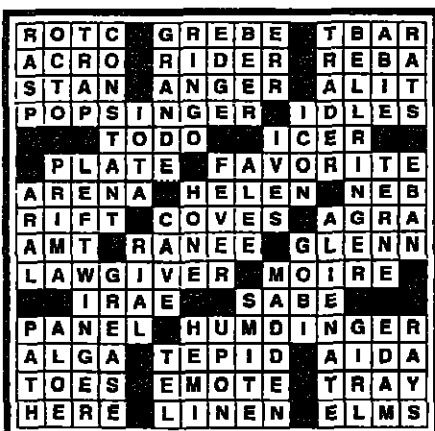
THE Daily Crossword by Sefton Boyars

- ACROSS**
- 1 Suspend
 - 5 Form
 - 9 Louvre location
 - 14 Israeli airline
 - 15 "It's a sin to tell"
 - 16 Reverse
 - 17 Not any
 - 18 Adolescent
 - 19 Dud
 - 20 With 41A, movie about sheepish mediums?
 - 23 Conclude
 - 24 It goes with neither
 - 25 Atmosphere
 - 27 Jokester
 - 30 Movie about an automaton's lake?
 - 36 Mature
 - 37 Colleen
 - 38 Willow
 - 39 Sort
 - 41 See 20A
 - 44 Mistress of scat
 - 45 Inventor Howe
 - 47 Palo —
 - 49 Moose
 - 50 Movie about spectral stag?
 - 53 Color
 - 54 Veer
 - 55 Write
 - 57 Response: abbr.
 - 60 Movie about an animated phantom friend?
 - 66 Theme
 - 68 Ireland
 - 69 Withhold
 - 70 In any way
 - 71 Examine
 - 72 — receipts
 - 73 Fur
 - 74 D'Urberville girl
 - 75 Selb's son



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Thursday's puzzle solved

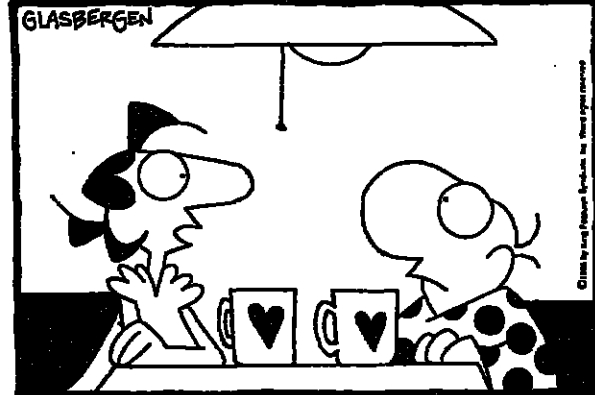


- DOWN**
- 1 Layers
 - 2 Succulent plant
 - 3 Grandmother
 - 4 Astronaut John
 - 5 Motherly
 - 6 Butterine
 - 7 Readily

- 8 D.D.S. word
- 9 Italian city
- 10 "Fables in Slang" humorist
- 11 City of seven hills
- 12 Press
- 13 Emit
- 21 Unruffled
- 22 Tint
- 26 Church recess
- 27 Roused
- 28 Nimble
- 29 Lamp man?
- 31 Govt. org.
- 32 Ottoman ruler
- 33 Lubricated
- 34 With 61D, a prude
- 35 Master of the Golden Hind
- 40 Flit
- 42 Deli letters
- 43 Foster and
- 46 Rearrange
- 48 Cookie

- 51 Have being
- 52 Turmoil
- 56 Poke
- 57 Amo., —, amat
- 58 Part of n.b.
- 59 Gore
- 61 See 34D
- 62 Maird —
- 63 Slant
- 64 Division word
- 65 Watches
- 67 Ailing

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



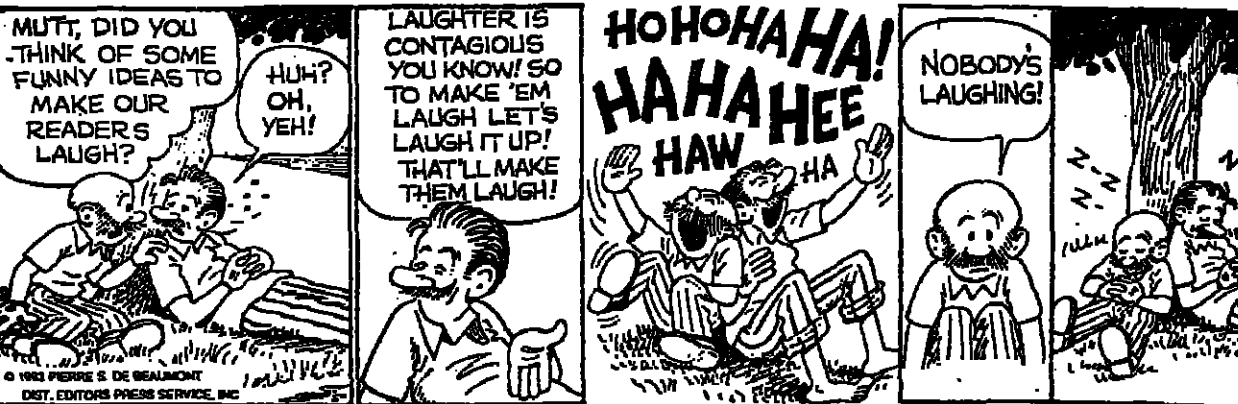
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Authorities detect cheating in meat shipment

AN ATTEMPT by one of the importers of meat to pass 10,000 cartons of imported meat through illegal means was foiled by the concerned authorities. The original invoice specified the quantity at 6,000 cartons but the amount was inflated to 16,000 by making a handwritten forgery on the original invoice. The Ministry of Health expressed doubts about the quantity and informed the prosecutor of the Customs Department who immediately started investigations. The preliminary results showed that there was manipulation and forgery of official documents and, accordingly, the concerned government departments are following up the matter to take the legal measures against the importer who has a record of cheating as previous shipments of imported meat was found unfit for consumption. A meat shipment to Iraq arranged by this importer in the past was also found unfit and returned. Furthermore an associate of this importer was recently caught at sea changing labels on meat packages and was taken to court to stand trial (Al Ra'i).

PRESSURE EXERTED by public groups, professional associations, tribal leaders and Islamists in Irbid has prevented a luncheon that was scheduled to be held at Al Andalus restaurant in honour of Israeli Ambassador in Jordan, Dr. Shaker Khreis, the doctor of the Irbid Municipality slaughterhouse, and Mohamed Munther Bani Isa were the hosts for the party to which many guests were invited to attend. The Khreisat tribe denounced the act and said the man only represents himself. The owner of the restaurant issued an apology and said the decision was taken when he was out of town and upon his return he rejected holding the lunch at his restaurant (Al Ra'i).

AN ADVERTISEMENT appearing on the front page announces that the Arab Company for Manufacturing Sanitary Paper decided to stop production and sales as of Friday, Sept. 22, 1995, as a result of losses being incurred for not floating the prices of second grade sanitary paper. The company said that the Ministry of Supply signed studying this issue from the beginning of April 1995 and had not yet finished it. The company demanded that prices of second grade sanitary paper be raised due to higher costs of raw materials which had increased threefold noting also that supplies were hard to find. The company pointed out that prices of most types of sanitary paper were floated and that first grade prices were floated since 1989. The company's general manager, Abdul Majed Al Faouri, said in the announcement that all workers were on unpaid leave starting Sept. 22 until further notice (Al Ra'i).

THE CABINET has approved raising the capital of the House Bank from JD 18 million to JD 25 million. The increase is to be covered by private subscription to old shareholders for JD 3.5 million, JD 2.75 million to be covered by the Jordan Investment Corporation and JD0.75 by the bank's employees provident fund (Al Ra'i).

THE COUNCIL of Ministers has approved setting up four hotels on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea in the first stage. Four additional areas will be developed to make it available for investment (Al Ra'i).

Time, Turner boards agree on merger

NEW YORK (R) — The boards of Time Warner Inc. and Turner Broadcasting System Inc. (TBS), ending weeks of negotiations, said Friday they agreed on an \$8 billion merger that will form the world's largest entertainment company.

The two companies, whose businesses range from Turner's Cable News Network, professional sports teams and Hanna-Barbera cartoons to Time Warner's vast cable TV systems, publishing, music and movie operations, said they will merge through an exchange of stock that will be tax-free to both companies' stockholders.

The deal will form a media giant that they said would have had 1994 revenues of about \$19.8 billion.

Under terms of the deal, Turner chief Ted Turner will become vice chairman of Time Warner and head of the Time Warner video division, which will consist of all the businesses of TBS. In addition, he will have supervisory responsibilities for the home box office cable television unit.

Mr. Turner will also have the right to designate two Time Warner Inc. directors, one of whom will be himself. The new company will surpass in size and scope the recently announced combination of Walt Disney Co. and Capital Cities/ABC Inc., a company that would have had 1994 revenues of about \$6.4 billion.

That deal was viewed on Wall Street as a major force behind the lengthy and tortuous negotiations between Turner and Time Warner.

"It's a real positive," William Lefevre, a senior market analyst at Ehrenkrantz King Nussbaum Inc., said of the positive outcome of the Time Warner-Turner talks. "It may take a while for this to gel but it makes Time Warner a much more interesting participant. It puts them in a position to better compete," he said.

"The complementary nature of the two organisations will allow us to maximise the value of our assets and distribution systems and position us as the leading media company in an increasingly competitive global marketplace," Time Warner Chairman Gerald Levin said in a statement.

Dollar down but not out

(Continued from page 8)

only against the yen is not going to do that much for its long-term strength," he added, noting that concerted intervention by world central banks could well be necessary.

Dresdner's Mizukami agreed, but said the timing of such moves would be crucial. "Intervention tonight is possible, quite possible. But there are still a fair amount of long positions out there, which might mean it is still too early."

He added that both the Bundesbank and Federal Reserve appeared lukewarm about the idea of intervening now.

Trading volume at AFM declines

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading volume declined at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week and prices slipped a little but investors largely resisted offers as they awaited further developments in the economy, brokers said Friday.

Turnover for the week ending Thursday was JD 6.9 million, down from the previous week's JD 10.5 million.

The official AFM share price index based on 60 major companies closed at 155.5 points, down 0.6 points, or 0.4 per cent from the week's

opening. Services sector shares shed 1.8 points, or 1.4 per cent, industrials declined by 0.8 points or 0.6 per cent, insurance 0.5 points, or 0.4 per cent, and commercial banks by 0.4 points, or 0.2 per cent, the weekly AFM report said.

Commercial banks and financial institutions accounted for JD 3.3 million, or 47.8 per cent, of the weekly volume, followed by industrials with JD 2.5 million, or 36.2 per cent, services stocks with JD 900,000 diars, or 13.1 per cent, and insurance stocks with JD 200,000, or 2.9 per cent. The AFM report said 4.8

million shares changed under 3,668 contracts concluded during the week, with a daily average of JD 1.4 million compared with JD 2.1 million in the previous week.

Shares of 93 companies were traded during the week, with 13 companies closing with gains, 67 declining and 13 remaining unchanged.

AFM dealers said the week saw many individual speculators resisting offers as they awaited further government moves ahead of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled to be held here next month.

"The market had already

absorbed any pluses and minuses of the recent economy-related laws before they were endorsed by the government," said a dealer, who, like other AFM brokers, cannot be identified by name. The dealer was referring to the endorsement last week of amendments to the income tax, sales tax and investment promotion laws that signalled changes in the government's economic policies towards attracting investments.

"Now the market is waiting for further government moves ahead of the Amman summit," said the dealer.

adding that many in the market expected an upward trend to take hold in both turnover and prices.

In the meantime, the market has shed fears of a negative fallout from a possible strain in ties with Iraq.

The realisation has dawned on the market that the trade and economic relations between Jordan and Iraq are destined to remain strong for some time if only because of the interdependence of the two," said another dealer. As such, added the dealer, ties with Iraq are "not necessarily a key factor affecting the mood in the market."

| AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET | | | | | CHANGE | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN | | | | | 1 - 2.36% | | | | |
| TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179 | | | | | | | | | |
| ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (16/09/1995 - 20/09/1995) | | | | | | | | | |
| WEEKLY REPORT | | | | | | | | | |
| COMPANY'S NAME | TRADING VOLUME JD | PREV. CLOSING PRICE | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE | | | | | |
| ARAB BANK PLC | 924,895 | 227.500 | 227.500 | 228.500 | | | | | |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK | 72,489 | 4.490 | 4.490 | 4.480 | | | | | |
| BANK OF JORDAN | 26,675 | 3.420 | 3.420 | 3.420 | | | | | |
| MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK | 112,391 | 1.210 | 1.210 | 1.200 | | | | | |
| INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK | 8,563 | 2.490 | 2.490 | 2.490 | | | | | |
| THE HOUSING BANK | 38,204 | 5.670 | 5.670 | 5.500 | | | | | |
| JORDAN GULF BANK | 18,981 | 2.700 | 2.700 | 2.740 | | | | | |
| JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK | 1,673,148 | 1.130 | 1.130 | 1.030 | | | | | |
| ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK | 1,875 | 3.750 | 3.750 | 3.750 | | | | | |
| JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK | 41,987 | 3.730 | 3.730 | 3.730 | | | | | |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 2,932 | 3.950 | 3.950 | 3.950 | | | | | |
| BUSINESS BANK | 62,665 | 3.800 | 3.800 | 3.690 | | | | | |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK | 38,455 | 4.000 | 4.000 | 4.030 | | | | | |
| ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT | 155,686 | 0.950 | 0.950 | 0.930 | | | | | |
| PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK | 48,379 | 2.610 | 2.610 | 1.550 | | | | | |
| BANKS SECTOR | | 2252154 | INDEX NUMBER | 185.05 | | | | | |
| | | CHANGE | | -0.20% | | | | | |
| JERUSALEM INSURANCE | 24,600 | 4.100 | 4.100 | 4.100 | | | | | |
| JORDAN PRINCE INSURANCE | 133,673 | 2.640 | 2.640 | 2.700 | | | | | |
| YARMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE | 4,625 | 3.100 | 3.100 | 3.050 | | | | | |
| MOLY LAND INSURANCE | 4,685 | 1.800 | 2.800 | 2.660 | | | | | |
| ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE | 37,495 | 2.520 | 2.520 | 2.450 | | | | | |
| DEFAA INSURANCE | 4,800 | 2.400 | 2.400 | 2.400 | | | | | |
| INSURANCE SECTOR | | 209945 | INDEX NUMBER | 133.43 | | | | | |
| | | CHANGE | | -0.35% | | | | | |
| JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER | 123,921 | 1.670 | 1.670 | 1.640 | | | | | |
| JARID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY | 627 | 1.160 | 1.160 | 1.160 | | | | | |
| JORDAN TIMES GENERAL | 250 | 2.500 | 2.500 | 2.500 | | | | | |
| VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION | 5,488 | 7.010 | 7.010 | 7.050 | | | | | |
| ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS | 5,697 | 5.650 | 5.650 | 5.600 | | | | | |
| JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES | 7,044 | 2.730 | 2.730 | 2.710 | | | | | |
| NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES | 10,374 | 2.090 | 2.090 | 2.020 | | | | | |
| REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 70,330 | 1.140 | 1.140 | 1.080 | | | | | |
| JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER | 19,045 | 1.180 | 1.180 | 1.200 | | | | | |
| MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE | 700 | 0.720 | 0.720 | 0.700 | | | | | |
| JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRAI | 1,478 | 9.950 | 9.950 | 9.950 | | | | | |
| JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING / AD-DUSTOUR | 75,500 | 7.600 | 7.600 | 7.600 | | | | | |
| UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCE HOTELS | 57,042 | 2.400 | 2.400 | 2.300 | | | | | |
| ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION | 43,456 | 3.150 | 3.150 | 3.130 | | | | | |
| KARMA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY | 14,310 | 1.370 | 1.370 | 1.340 | | | | | |
| SERVICES SECTOR | | 459221 | INDEX NUMBER | 126.47 | | | | | |
| | | CHANGE | | -0.35% | | | | | |
| ATTACHEE CURST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING | 9,251 | 1.240 | 1.240 | 1.230 | | | | | |
| THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES | 220,956 | 3.670 | 3.670 | 3.640 | | | | | |
| JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES | 27,602 | 3.010 | 3.010 | 3.010 | | | | | |
| THE ARAB POTASH | 367,260 | 4.920 | 4.920 | 4.910 | | | | | |
| JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY | 29,442 | 5.980 | 5.980 | 5.970 | | | | | |
| MOLEN INDUSTRIES | 146,687 | 1.500 | 1.500 | 1.490 | | | | | |
| THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL | 2,908 | 3.160 | 3.160 | 3.200 | | | | | |
| THE JORDAN MINING MINES | 13,195 | 7.400 | 7.400 | 7.350 | | | | | |
| ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING | 101,533 | 5.010 | 5.010 | 4.990 | | | | | |
| JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES | 20,359 | 5.950 | 5.950 | 5.970 | | | | | |
| JORDAN DAIRY | 3,744 | 2.450 | 2.450 | 2.400 | | | | | |
| THE JORDAN FIBRE MANUFACTURING | 22,406 | 2.530 | 2.530 | 2.500 | | | | | |
| JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES | 2,941 | 4.000 | 4.000 | 3.950 | | | | | |
| ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES | 2,750 | 13.000 | 13.000 | 13.750 | | | | | |
| SPINNING & WEAVING | 7,240 | 1.850 | 1.850 | 1.850 | | | | | |
| ARAB INDUSTRIES | 25,433 | 2.300 | 2.300 | 2.300 | | | | | |
| ARAB AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT | 26,495 | 7.450 | 7.450 | 7.400 | | | | | |
| ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY | 35,597 | 5.200 | 5.200 | 5.370 | | | | | |
| LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 457,135 | 0.700 | 0.700 | 0.650 | | | | | |
| GENERAL INVESTMENT | 520 | 2.600 | 2.600 | 2.600 | | | | | |
| ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING | 74,992 | 1.450 | 1.450 | 1.450 | | | | | |
| NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY | 5,290 | 2.350 | 2.350 | 2.300 | | | | | |
| NATIONAL INDUSTRIES | 109,908 | 1.180 | 1.180 | 1.070 | | | | | |
| INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 87,461 | 1.920 | 1.920 | 1.880 | | | | | |
| JORDAN ROOFTOP INDUSTRIES | 24,295 | 1.120 | 1.120 | 1.110 | | | | | |
| ALADIN INDUSTRIES | 530 | 4.250 | 4.250 | 4.150 | | | | | |
| NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING | 2,132 | 4.440 | 4.440 | 4.300 | | | | | |
| JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS | 27,448 | 1.470 | 1.470 | 1.400 | | | | | |
| ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS | 10,934 | 2.140 | 2.140 | 2.130 | | | | | |
| KANTHER INVESTMENT | 774 | 1.760 | 1.760 | 1.720 | | | | | |
| UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES | 23,488 | 3.250 | 3.250 | 3.170 | | | | | |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO. | 63,553 | 2.040 | 2.040 | 2.000 | | | | | |
| JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY | 28,499 | 1.460 | 1.460 | 1.470 | | | | | |
| INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES | 198,444 | 1.390 | 1.390 | 1.400 | | | | | |
| UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRIES | 18,242 | 2.100 | 2.100 | 2.020 | | | | | |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR | | 2202007 | INDEX NUMBER | 125.18 | | | | | |
| | | CHANGE | | -0.62% | | | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 6123398 | INDEX NUMBER | 155.47 | | | | | |
| | | CHANGE | | -0.62% | | | | | |
| PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (16/09/1995 - 20/09/1995) | | | | | | | | | |
| WEEKLY REPORT | | | | | | | | | |
| COMPANY'S NAME | TRADING VOLUME JD | PREV. CLOSING PRICE | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE | | | | | |
| CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE | 11,109 | 0.790 | 0.790 | 0.770 | | | | | |
| JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES | 87,800 | 0.800 | 0.800 | 0.780 | | | | | |
| UNITED CO. FOR ORGANISING LAND TRANS. | 2,904 | 2.900 | 2.900 | 2.230 | | | | | |
| ARAB FIB INV.CO | 201,043 | 1.190 | 1.190 | 1.070 | | | | | |
| UNION INVESTMENT CORP. 50% | 123,724 | 0.960 | 0.960 | 0.940 | | | | | |
| ARAB FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES | 6,209 | 0.950 | 0.950 | 0.930 | | | | | |
| ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE | 31,446 | 0.780 | 0.780 | 0.720 | | | | | |
| JORDAN TEXTILES & MATCH/STICK | 15,820 | 0.830 | 0.830 | 0.840 | | | | | |

Becker, Stich duo ready for Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — The apparent end of German tennis' cold war has given Russia a new Western ally as the Davis Cup semifinals open Friday: Boris Becker and Michael Stich.

Even Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Russia's rising star and virtual one-man team, admits that the unlikely German partnership will be difficult to beat.

The long-time rivals have patched their differences publicly, at least, and give Germany its best team ever as it seeks to avenge a 4-1 upset loss to the Russians in last year's semifinal in Hamburg.

"The strength of this team is that in all five matches we

have an excellent chance," Becker said in an interview Thursday. "Kafelnikov is an excellent player on clay, but he has all the pressures on his shoulders."

Germany gained a psychological edge in Thursday's draw when the fourth-ranked Becker, who skipped Davis Cup play last year, was paired against 59th-ranked Andrei Chesnokov in the opening match.

Kafelnikov will play No. 12 Michael Stich in the other singles Friday. Becker and Stich will play Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy in Saturday's doubles, followed by the reverse singles on Sunday.

The German players ex-

changed smiles when the favorable pairing was pulled out of an envelope at a hotel next to the indoor Olympic stadium.

"The first match is the most important match," Stich said afterward. "If we play well we definitely have an edge over the Russians with Chesnokov."

The Russians reacted stoically to the draw, looking straight ahead.

"It will be harder to win than last year in Hamburg because this time the Germans have Becker, who is able to beat any of us," Kafelnikov said. "But we're not about to be intimidated by them."

Becker and Stich have

bickered and fumed in the past in a bitter public battle to outdo each other in star status, fan support, pay and perks. Becker refused for a time to use Stich's first name, calling him simply "the player Stich," while Stich accused Becker of selfishness.

But now their prickly relations and Becker's disinclination to play every Davis Cup match have both been smoothed over, with the help of lucrative contracts.

The two playfully jostled for position in front of photographers Thursday, and team captain Nikki Pilić spoke of the "great harmony" on his once dissension-riddled team.

"When I see how they play

football together in training and play cards together in the evening, I know that the situation on the German team is very good, very friendly," he said.

Russian hopes of advancing to the final again lie with Kafelnikov, and with the clay surface that was installed with the intention of neutralising the booming German serves. Chesnokov beat Becker the last time they played on that surface, in

1993, although Becker has won four of their other five meetings overall.

Barring an upset by Chesnokov, Kafelnikov may need to win all three of his matches as he did a year ago to keep alive Russia's quest for its first Davis Cup title. Sweden won last year's final in Moscow.

The winner advances to a Dec. 1-3 matchup against the United States or Sweden.

Rules of cricket translated into Chinese

BEIJING (R) — The 2,000-year treasure house of Chinese literature gained an additional gem — the first translation of the rules of cricket into the language.

The translation appeared in the programme for the second Beijing International Cricket Sixes, and is the work of former Chinese hockey international Bruce Wang Xiaodong.

Wang developed his interest in the game during three years in Sydney from 1990, and now plays for the Australian Embassy team in Beijing.

"I want to popularise the game in China," said Wang in a thick Sydney Twang. "When I played the first time, I did not know the rules. I just tried to hit the ball hard. It was fun."

Behind him, a few Chinese watched demused at the Indian and Pakistani teams in action on a field usually used for soccer.

Working at a trading firm in Sydney, Wang became a proficient opening batsman and medium-pace bowler with the Waverley Club and brought his love of the game back to China.

"I think cricket can catch on in China but a lot depends on the attitude of local officials," he said.

"When I asked them, they said cricket was not an Olympic sport and that they did not want a national team."

The competition was the brainchild of British businessman Tony Fisher, who sees China following the example of Japan, which had no cricket until 1978 but now has nine universities playing and is adding one new club a year.

A Japanese team played in the competition which was won by a British team who beat the Hong Kong Dragons.

"I am keen to bring Chinese into the game and to add China to the list of cricket-playing nations," Fisher said. "For Chinese, there is no problem physically and the mental strategy of it should appeal to them."

Wang and Fisher will accompany two senior Chinese sports officials to Hong Kong to see the Hong Kong Professional Cricket Sixes tournament on September 30. Chinese officials invited to attend the competition did not show up, for reasons that were not immediately clear.

China has no local cricket team. All 10 teams in the tournament were foreigners, including sides from Hong Kong and South Korea and Beijing expatriates from Australia, Britain, India, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

They played on a special artificial pitch costing \$1,600 and flown to Beijing from New Zealand.

"I do not understand the rules," said one Chinese student. "But I think we could learn. It looks much like baseball."

"Chinese are willing to try new sports. There are now three universities playing rugby, a new game in China," he said.

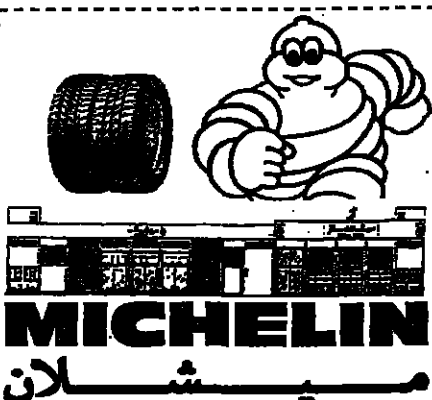
In Chinese, rugby is called "olive ball" while cricket is called "board ball" in the mainland and "wood-ball" in Hong Kong, where cricket has a long history.

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Proceeds will go to The College of Occupational Therapy

The French Embassy and Shoman Foundation present the Second Franco-Arab Film Festival

| Date/Time | Place | Programming |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept 25 6.30 pm | French Cultural Centre | Video screening: Cheb by Rachid Bouchareb (Algeria-France 1990 - French version) |
| Sept 25 8.30 pm | Concord | Film Silence of the Palace by Moudida Tlati (Tunisia-France 1994 - Arabic with French subtitles) introduced by the film-maker |
| Sept 26 5 pm | F.C.C. | Lecture in French with Mrs Moudida Tlati: Women and arab cinema |
| Sept 26 6.30 pm | F.C.C. | Video screening: Halfaouine by Ferid Boughedir (Tunisia-France 1989 - French version) |
| Sept 26 8.30 pm | Concord | Film The visit of Mr President (Egypt 1989 - Arabic version) introduced by Mr Mounir Rady |
| Sept 27 5 pm | Shoman Forum | Lecture in Arabic with MM. Mounir Radi & Samir Habchi: The arab cinema in the nineties |
| Sept 27 6.30 pm | F.C.C. | Video screening: Out of life by Naroun Bagdadi (Lebanon-France 1990 - French version) |
| Sept 27 8.30 pm | Concord | Film The Whirl (Lebanon-France 1992 - Arabic version) introduced by Samir Habchi |
| Sept 28 8.30 pm | Concord | Film Bab El Oued City by Merzak Allouache (Algeria-France 1994 - Arabic with French subtitles) |
| Sept 29 8.30 pm | Concord | Film The beach of the lost children by Jilali Ferhati (Morocco-France 1991 - Arabic with French subtitles) |
| Sept 30 8.30 pm | Concord | Film Alexandria, always and always by Youssef Chahine (Egypt-France 1991 - Arabic with English subtitles) |
| Oct 1st 6 pm | Shoman Forum | Film Dreams & Silence by Omar Al Qattan (Palestine-Belgium-France 1992 - Arabic with French and English subtitles) |

Shoman Forum & French Cultural Centre: free admission.
Entrance at Concord: 1 J.D. only
For more information, please call:
Regional Audiovisual Office: tel 642878
French Cultural Center: Douar Al Haouz circle - Djabal Weibdeh tel 637009/636445
Shoman Forum: 1st circle - tel 659154
Cinema Concord: Shmeisani - tel 677420

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WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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RENDER UNTO CAESAR

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ A
♦ A K J 10 2
♣ Q 5 3

EAST
♠ Q
♥ K 9 5 4 2
♦ 8 5 4
♣ K 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A K J 9
♥ 8 6 3
♦ Q 9 7
♣ A J 6

The bidding:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass

2♠ Pass 2♥ Pass

3♥ Pass 3♠ Pass

4♥ Pass 4♠ Pass

5♥ Pass 5♠ Pass

6♥ Pass 6♠ Pass

7♥ Pass 7♠ Pass

8♥ Pass 8♠ Pass

9♥ Pass 9♠ Pass

10♥ Pass 10♠ Pass

11♥ Pass 11♠ Pass

12♥ Pass 12♠ Pass

13♥ Pass 13♠ Pass

14♥ Pass 14♠ Pass

15♥ Pass 15♠ Pass

16♥ Pass 16♠ Pass

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Settlers shoot Hebron boy and trigger clash

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — A Palestinian said Jewish settlers shot him in the legs on Friday in the West Bank city of Hebron.

After the shooting, dozens of Palestinians threw stones at Israeli soldiers in the city, which has been at the centre of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) talks on wider self-rule in the West Bank.

In another incident, unidentified gunmen shot at an Israeli army checkpoint near the PLO-ruled Jericho enclave, causing no casualties, the army and Palestinian sources said.

Ziad Zayad Al Jabari, 18, told Reuters from his hospital bed in Hebron that settlers approached his home and shot him in both legs when he walked away.

Settler leaders were not available for comment and the Israeli army said it was checking the report.

Around 400 Israeli settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians in Hebron.

Control over security in Hebron has been a main stumbling block to an agreement on Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank

and Palestinian elections. Aharon Domb, a settler spokesman who lives in the Kiryat Arba settlement in Hebron, warned that Israel's agreement to withdraw its troops from much of Hebron would lead to bloodshed.

"I am talking about civil war between Jews and Arabs," said Mr. Domb, speaking before news spread of the wounding of Jabari. "The government is pushing us towards this."

In the Jericho incident, shots were fired from a car as it approached the checkpoint from the direction of the town, which came under self-rule last year under the terms of a 1993 Israel-PLO peace deal.

The army said the car turned back after the shooting and sped off in the direction of Jericho. The army sealed off the Palestinian city.

Palestinian police arrested one man in connection with the shooting, Palestinian sources said.

An Israeli soldier shot and seriously wounded a Palestinian trying to kidnap him Thursday, police said.

The soldier was lightly injured in the struggle and was taken to a hospital in Haifa

for treatment, police said. The wounded Palestinian was detained and security forces were looking for the second Arab who fled in a car, the army said.

Militants rounded up

Palestinian police have arrested dozens of members of Islamic Jihad after claims the group was preparing a car bombing against Israel, a newspaper said Friday.

The Jihad's weekly Al Istiqlal said the swoop began Wednesday after Israel sealed off the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Gaza police refused to comment.

The army said the closure, which prevents 13,000 Gazans from reaching their workplaces in Israel, would last until further notice.

Dozens of Israelis have died in suicide bombings over the last two years by extremists trying to wreck the peace process and the PLO's autonomy deal.

The army last sealed off the territory in July following intelligence reports that militants on the Strip were preparing a spectacular suicide bombing in the heart of Tel Aviv.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura, UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Turkmen and other officials at a school which was inaugurated by the Crown Prince at Baqaa camp on Thursday (Petra photo)

Turkmen ends visit after opening of Baqaa school

Concept of comprehensive security includes social security in all dimensions, Prince says

By Ghaila Ahl
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Ilter Turkmen, left Amman for the West Bank Friday after a three-day visit to the Kingdom during which he held talks with Jordanian officials about the agency's operations.

During the visit, Mr. Turkmen also attended the opening of a new school in Baqaa refugee camp on Thursday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Addressing the opening

ceremony, Prince Hassan stressed the necessity of adopting a comprehensive approach in dealing with refugees and population issues in the region, warning of the negative consequences of the failure to adopt such an approach.

"The permanent Jordanian perception of comprehensive security... includes social security in all its dimensions," said Prince Hassan, adding that any disturbance in the social fabric will leave a negative impact "on all of us and on our enlightened experience."

"(When we speak about refugees), we are not speak-

ing about a foreign community," said Prince Hassan, stressing that Jordan had always worked towards achieving deeper integration between "the muhajireen (Palestinians) and the ansar (East Bankers in Jordan)."

Prince Hassan added that the philosophy of the Jordanian government has been centred on consolidating integration between Jordanians and Palestinians.

"The philosophy of Jordanian regime has always been centred on consolidating integration between (Jordanians and Palestinians). We

(Continued on page 7)

Libya allows return of stranded Palestinians

SALLUUM, Egypt (Agencies) — Libya has authorised the return of some 150 expelled Palestinians trapped in a no-man's land on the Egyptian border for the last three weeks, officials at this border post said Friday.

But only seven Palestinians, four of them students, took up the offer on Thursday and the rest are refusing on the grounds that they have no employment or homes to return to in Libya.

"There is no other solution for them but to return to that country but they must have guarantees of being able to find jobs and homes," said Mohammad Sobehi, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) representative to the Arab League in Cairo.

Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammad Saleh Dembri said Libya's Minister of Arab Unity Jomaa Al Fezzani assured him when they met at an Arab League meeting in Cairo last week that Tripoli had stopped expelling

Palestinians. Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi decided at the start of September to expel the 30,000 Palestinians living in the country to show up what he called the failure of the PLO's autonomy deal with Israel.

But the move whipped up a storm of protest in other Arab countries and Lebanon refused to accommodate a mass return of Palestinians with Lebanese travel documents, slapping visa restrictions.

Egypt will let through only those few who can obtain Israeli permits to enter the self-rule areas of Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Essam Abdul Rahman, a 32-year-old man trapped on the border for the last six weeks, told Reuters he was living in the shell of a crashed car.

Zubeib Abdul Rahman Hassan said he had to beg for food, water and cigarettes from passing travellers.

Euro-MPs push EU to support UAE maid

STRASBOURG (R) — The European Parliament hopes to increase pressure for leniency towards condemned Filipina maid Sarah Balaban with a call for European Union government action, Euro-MP Hedy D'Amico said on Friday.

"We really hope governments will support our resolution," she said in reference to the EU assembly's Thursday vote in support of Ms. Balaban, who faces execution in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the pre-meditated murder of her employer Almas Mohammad Al Baloushi.

The court rejected her claim that she stabbed him 34 times in self-defence.

Dutch Socialist D'Amico, who leads the list of European MPs pushing for EU government action, said she had been deeply shocked by the Sept. 16 decision by the UAE.

ANZ Grindlays expects high trade, investment in Jordan, seeks a key role

ANZ GRINDLAYS, one of the strongest international banking institutions, is taking a very keen interest in Jordan since it realises that there is a high potential of trade and investments in the Kingdom, says its international executive director, Alistair Maitland.

The role that ANZ Grindlays could play in Jordan's moves in the international banking scene was exemplified when it lead-managed the issue of Jordanian bonds worth \$50 million in the European market this month, Mr. Maitland told reporters on Thursday.

The issue was closed as soon as it was launched on Sept. 14 since the bonds were pre-marketed by ANZ Grindlays' international branches, said Mr. Maitland, correcting a report in the local press that the issue was "oversubscribed."

"We received a good number of inquiries whether any more of the bonds were available after we actually met the target," said Mr. Maitland. The government of Jordan decided not to go beyond the pre-set target of \$50 million in bonds, and hence potential buyers were advised that the seven-year papers were no longer available.

At the same time, Mr. Maitland said, the success of pre-marketing is a very clear indication of the interest that operators in the international money market are taking in the opportunities available in Jordan.

ANZ Grindlays, which has branches in 42 countries and is constantly increasing its international operations,



Alistair Maitland

believes that it can play a very effective role in the new trade and investment opportunities available in Jordan, said Mr. Maitland, who was visiting Jordan to mark the 70th anniversary of the bank in Jordan.

"We have noticed that Jordan's exports in the first eight months of this year have gone up by 20 per cent when compared with the corresponding period of 1994," said Mr. Maitland. "It is very encouraging. We hope to help and benefit from the increasing Jordanian exports," given that ANZ Grindlays has a strong presence in most of the countries which import Jordanian products.

For instance, he said, ANZ Grindlays accounts for 50 per cent of all foreign financing needs of India, which has emerged as an economic powerhouse after the government liberalised its economy and opened the door for foreign investors three years ago. India is among the largest importers of Jordanian phosphate and potash.

Mr. Maitland, who has

been with the bank for 30 years and enjoys a reputation as one of the Australia's leading and most influential figures on economic matters related to banking and financing, paid tribute to Jordan's economic performance.

It is impressive that the Kingdom is maintaining an annual economic growth rate of nearly six per cent while retaining inflation around four per cent, he noted.

ANZ Grindlays also sees as highly positive the "package of measures" that the Central Bank has adopted in liberalising the banking sector and reducing the tariffs on commercial banks, he said.

"The relaxation of controls and other measures that accompanies it are a very significant achievement for the Jordanian economy," said Mr. Maitland. "Liberalisation of banking regulations and restrictions facilitates the flow of trade and investment."

ANZ Grindlays has opened a branch in Nablus in the West Bank and seeks to expand its operations in the Palestinian territories by opening more branches but is retaining its options to do so after an initial phase of getting closely familiarised with the features and needs of that market, Mr. Maitland said.

He rejected suggestions that ANZ Grindlays was "not meeting the credit requirements" of its West Bank clientele and said that the bank was following prudent policies that take into account the realities on the ground.

World Court refuses to consider ban against French nuclear tests

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — The World Court refused Friday to even consider banning French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, despite New Zealand's claims that the blasts risk radioactive catastrophe.

In its ruling, the U.N. court declined to reopen a 1973 case in which New Zealand sought a ban on French nuclear testing in the atmosphere. The court dropped that case in 1974 when France announced it would switch to underground testing.

On Friday, the court said the 1973 case could not be reopened "because atmospheric testing was no longer the issue. The court also refused to order a provisional ban on testing sought by New Zealand."

"The court, by 12 votes to three, finds that (New Zealand's) request for an examination of the situation does not fall within the provisions (of the 1974 ruling) and must consequently be dismissed," Presiding Judge Mohammad Bedjaoui said.

At hearings on Sept. 11 and 12, held to determine whether there were grounds for such a review, France accused New Zealand of misusing the court as a forum for political protest and rejected claims that its tests

threatened the environment. "It's a pity," said New Zealand representative Donald McKay, who added that Pacific states would continue to oppose the testing, which resumed Sept. 5 under Mururoa atoll in French Polynesia.

French spokesman Marc de Brichambaut said New Zealand's satisfaction from the court came in having the chance to voice its concerns. "We got a satisfaction in that we got our legal grounds" to reject the appeal, he added.

New Zealand had asked France to stop testing until the effects of the explosions could be studied.

However, French President Jacques Chirac has remained adamant about continuing with the tests, scheduled to end in May 1996. The tests, Mr. Chirac has said, will be France's last before signing a comprehensive test ban treaty.

But in light of the unexpected violence of anti-nuclear protesters, France also has said the number of blasts may be cut from eight to six.

The tests have provoked international protest, rioting in the French Polynesian capital Papeete and revival of the independence movement in French-ruled Tahiti.

'Milk miracle' frenzy spreads around globe

NEW DELHI (R) — Feverish Hindu faithful around the globe converged on temples on Friday as word spread that stone idols in India were drinking sacred milk offerings.

From Long Island to London and Hong Kong to New Delhi, thousands of worshippers and the merely curious thronged temples hoping to witness what Indians were calling the "milk miracle."

"It is a miracle," said Srikanth Ravi, the priest at Delhi's Hanuman Temple. "The gods have come down to earth to solve all our problems."

The frenzy started early on Thursday with wildfire rumours that idols of the Hindu god Shiva, his consort Parvati and their son, the portly elephant-headed Ganesha, were sipping traditional milk offerings in Delhi. Word quickly spread through India.

Indian offices and homes were abuzz as even wheeled businessmen, politicians and journalists dropped what they were doing to join

the frenzy. But by Friday the fever had abated in India, though devotees were reported to be continuing to feed milk to the gods.

"It cannot be a hoax," said business executive Parmesh Sodhi. "Where would all that milk go?"

One Delhi resident claimed the milk in his refrigerator had vanished, swallowed by the statue of Ganesha poised on top.

Indian scientists said the marvel was mass delusion, explained by elementary physics. "It may be a politically motivated stunt," Sanal Edamarukku, head of the Indian Rationalist Society, said.

The Pioneer newspaper carried a photograph of a man collecting milk in a bucket placed under a spout leading out of the back of a Delhi temple.

But the excitement quickly spread across borders. Hundreds of Hindus flocked to a temple in London's Southall district as word spread through the capital's large

Indian community. "I held the spoon out level, and it just disappeared," said Anita Premji. "To me, it was just a miracle. It gave me a sense of feeling that there is a God."

On Long Island and in New Jersey in eastern United States, devotees said Hindu deities were swallowing milk. One worshipper told the Press Trust of India he had kept a saucer of milk in front of idols in his home. The milk, he said, had disappeared.

In Indonesia, housewife Ritu Garg said she and her two children were left speechless when her family's small silver idol of Ganesha, god of good luck and wealth, began drinking.

"My two children were urging Ganesha to finish his milk, just as I tell them to finish theirs," she said.

In Bangkok, hundreds of ethnic Indians along with Buddhist Thais rushed to a Hindu temple. "If you have faith, you can see it with your own eyes," an ethnic Chinese woman said.

Iranian hijacker remanded in Israeli custody

EILAT, Israel (AP) — The Iranian flight attendant who hijacked a passenger plane with 175 people aboard to flee Iran's repressive government, he said Thursday.

"I believe the people of Iran do not deserve to be in such an oppressed situation," said Reza Jabari, 29. "I wanted to make it public and announce it to the world."

"I had no intention of harming the passengers or the crew," Mr. Jabari told the AP through a translator. Iran, meanwhile, stepped up its accusation that Israel had colluded with the hijacker from the start.

Mr. Jabari, an officer in the Iranian army, appeared Thursday in Eilat magistrate's court, where Judge Shlomo Bar Eli ruled he could be held for up to 15 days while authorities investigated him on charges of piracy, hijacking, weapons possession and infiltration.

The plane was returned to Tehran on Wednesday with 174 passengers and crew, including passengers who witnesses said had asked for asylum.

Israeli authorities never said why asylum was denied and never identified the five who reportedly requested it. Although there was some concern that Iran could punish those who asked to stay in Israel, the authorities apparently thought it would be too hard to pinpoint those who did not want to return.

Israel's decision also may have been a desire not to invite further complications with Iran.

Iran's parliament speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, was quoted on state-run Tehran Radio as saying that the delay in returning the plane and the refusal to extradite the hijacker demonstrated "the Zionist regime's terrorist nature."

He protested Israel's interrogation of the passengers.

The captain of the plane, whose name was not given, suggested in a radio interview that the Israelis had advanced knowledge of the hijacker's arrival, noting the flight attendant "immediately decided on going to Israel, which was strange to me."

"As soon as we landed there he got off and ran towards people who were either waiting for him or were waiting to surround the plane," he said.

The captain said a U.S.-made C-130 Hercules transport plane arrived at the Israeli air base after the Iranian plane landed there.

"They told us it was bringing journalists," he said. "But the speed with which things were expedited appeared that it was carrying someone else, and that it was all planned that we would go there."

Witnesses said the C-130 brought in an elite commando unit and equipment.

Mr. Jabari denied having any contact with Israel before the hijacking, but said he had intended from the outset to reach the Jewish state.

"The fuel the plane was carrying was not sufficient to carry me to another safe place," Mr. Jabari said.

Column

Pisa's leaning tower has stabilised

PISA, Italy (AP) — The leaning tower of Pisa has stopped its leaning, for the moment. Some 780 tonnes of lead placed at the base as a counterweight have halted the tower's tilting, according to measurements released by the University of Pisa. An additional 180 tonnes of lead were added in the last week to the already existing 600 tonnes that have been placed on the tower's non-leaning side since 1993. The counterweight has helped reverse the inclination of the tower, said Antonio Lazzarini, director of Pisa's Historic Society and expert on the tower. Mr. Lazzarini said the measurements show the 54-metre (180-foot) tower, has now reached equilibrium and is still. "But the lead counterweights can't hold it forever, and the tower will probably start moving again in four or five months," Mr. Lazzarini added. The measurements were taken by two university professors who have been measuring the tower's leanings every three months for four decades. The tower, begun in 1173, began to tilt almost immediately after it was completed as the ground shifted underneath. It leans some 13 feet (4 metres) off the perpendicular.

Hanoi Opera to close for renovation

HANOI (AFP) — Hanoi Opera House, an imposing colonial building styled on the Paris Opera, will close for renovation at the end of the month, the Ministry of Culture and Information said Friday. The 156-million-dollar (\$15-million) restoration, approved in June by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, will take until the end of 1997, when Hanoi will host a summit of Francophone heads of government, Vice Minister of Culture Vu Khac Lien said. The opera, built in 1889 and opened in 1911, has been used as a municipal theatre, but over the past 40 years water infiltration has damaged its structure and fittings. Once renovated, it will be the most modern and best equipped in Vietnam and a French company, H and H Architecture Urbanisme, will help preserve the building's graceful colonial style, the minister said. Work will start in November and be supervised by Hanoi's General Construction Company.

\$9 m missing, but rock star never noticed

LONDON (AP) — Going from unemployed schoolteacher to rock star, Sting told a court that he sought help from an acquaintance — who embezzled him. Accountant Keith Moore siphoned £6 million (\$9.3 million) from Sting's bank accounts over years, but Sting testified in Southwark Crown Court that he didn't notice the loss until an anonymous writer tipped him off. In the early days, "I spent some time on national assistance, which was about £6 (\$32) a week," said Sting, referred to in court by his real name of Gordon Matthew Sumner. By 1977 — only two years after starting the chart-topping band Police — that shot up to "many hundreds of thousands a year."

"I certainly was not qualified to really understand the complexity or control the complexity," Sting said. "I needed an accountant." A friend recommended Moore, who was Sting's accountant from 1977 until 1992. In between, millions poured in for Sting from all over the globe. Even when he became more involved in the business end of his career, he did not have the time to closely supervise his accounts, Sting said.